



*Past and present of O'Brien and
Osceola counties, Iowa*

John Licinius Everett Peck,
Otto Hillock Montzheimer, William J. Miller



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PAST AND PRESENT
OF
O'Brien and Osceola
Counties, Iowa

BY

HON. J. L. E. PECK and HON. O. H. MONTZHEIMER
For O'Brien County

AND

HON. WILLIAM J. MILLER
For Osceola County

VOL. I

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DEDICATION.

This work is respectfully dedicated to

THE PIONEERS

long since departed. May the memory of those who laid down their burdens
by the wayside ever be fragrant as the breath of summer
flowers, for their toils and sacrifices have made
O'Brien and Osceola Counties a
garden of sunshine
and delights.

PREFACE

All life and achievement is evolution; present wisdom comes from past experience, and present commercial prosperity has come only from past exertion and suffering. The deeds and motives of the men that have gone before have been instrumental in shaping the destinies of later communities and states. The development of a new country was at once a task and a privilege. It required great courage, sacrifice and privation. Compare the present conditions of the people of O'Brien and Osceola counties, Iowa, with what they were a half century ago. From a trackless wilderness and virgin land, it has come to be a center of prosperity and civilization, with millions of wealth, systems of railways, grand educational institutions, splendid industries and immense agricultural productions. Can any thinking person be insensible to the fascination of the study which discloses the aspirations and efforts of the early pioneers who so strongly laid the foundation upon which has been reared the magnificent prosperity of later days? To perpetuate the story of these people and to trace and record the social, political and industrial progress of the community from its first inception is the function of the local historian. A sincere purpose to preserve facts and personal memoirs that are deserving of perpetuation, and which unite the present to the past, is the motive for the present publication. A specially valuable and interesting department is that one devoted to the sketches of representative citizens of these counties whose records deserve preservation because of their worth, effort and accomplishment. The publishers desire to extend their thanks to the gentlemen who have so faithfully labored to this end. Thanks are also due to the citizens of O'Brien and Osceola counties for the uniform kindness with which they have regarded this undertaking, and for their many services rendered in the gaining of necessary information.

In placing the "Past and Present of O'Brien and Osceola Counties, Iowa," before the citizens, the publishers can conscientiously claim that they have carried out the plan as outlined in the prospectus. Every biographical sketch in the work has been submitted to the party interested for correction, and therefore any error of fact, if there be any, is solely due to the person for whom the sketch was prepared. Confident that our effort to please will fully meet the approbation of the public, we are,

Respectfully,

THE PUBLISHERS.

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HISTORY OF O'BRIEN COUNTY

CHAPTER I.

THE PIONEER OF O'BRIEN COUNTY.

He came, he saw, he toughed it through,
He roamed the prairie wild,
He plucked the wild sweet williams rare,
This early roving child.

He broke the sod, he twisted hay,
He lingered through those years;
Grasshoppers were the reapers then,
His children oft in tears.

He fought with debts, chewed rosin gum:
His wife built chicken coops,
And from the tumble weeds she made
Those dainty ox-tail soups.

The homestead shanty was his home,
For beast a grass-thatched barn,
And yet to him 'twas "Home, Sweet Home,"
Where wife his socks did darn.

He had no coal, he had no wood,
For fuel he burned hay,
And when the hay gave out he burned
Machine notes he did pay.

The skies cleared off and land went up,
The sun shone on this spot:
When the discovery was made,
'Twas Eden's garden lot.

The railroad engine screeched and blew,
And yelled, "Where is that town?"
That town sprang up while it passed through
And held that railroad down.

The elm, and ash, and maple twigs,
 They grew, and grew, and grew,
 For wind breaks, groves, and park and shade,
 When wind it blew and blew.

The modern house and barn were built,
 The auto hove in sight,
 And then the pioneer was glad
 He'd fit that scrappy fight.

Now when, at last, at heaven's gate,
 You seek that heavenly rest,
 Of all that's good and great and grand,
 Iowa boasts the best.

When for this best the state you roam,
 'Mong Iowa's ninety and nine,
 Just keep your eyes a squintin', 'cause
 O'Brien's down the line.

Four townships long, four townships wide,
 On smooth and level land,
 Just four and twenty miles each way,
 You'll see a sight that's grand.

THE CREATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERIODS.

The creative becomes historic. The administrative becomes merely commonplace. God created the world. It was historic. It was creative. It was distinctly pioneer. The pioneer makes history. The tilling of the soil is merely administrative.

Columbus crossed the ocean and discovered America. That was historic. In thousands we cross the ocean as the administrative part of business and tourist life. The building of the Panama canal is creative. The thousands of ships will pass through its channel as part of the world's administrative progress. Whitney constructing his cotton gin and Fulton building his steamboat were events, but we continue to spin cotton with a million spindles and run our ships in daily commonplace.

When the Legislature of Iowa, in 1850, enacted the word "O'Brien" into a statute, by naming this particular twenty-four miles square "O'Brien," it wrote down an historic event for this county. The officials in the court house will continue to write the same name for the years to come into the records as mere administrative business. The United States issues its patent to a tract of land to the old homesteader. It is only done once. It is a creative event to that title. The mere deeds and sales and use of that land thereafter is but the formal administrative handing down of the original historic title.

The platting of a town on the record, or the vote by the people for its incorporation, is done but once. It is creative. The later living in or sale of parts of lots in that town belongs to the usual every-day item. The building of a railroad is usually done but once. The daily train traffic thereon for the years is but the daily ordeal of travel. The time of our birth, our birth day, is our creative period. The date is historic to us. The birth of a county is in its beginning. Then it was created. The later people administer upon its effects. The selling of our school lands by its first county auditor's certificates, or contracts, was creative. The loaning of the proceeds of these lands on school loans is administrative. The first laying out or establishment of our highways on the wild prairie was creative. We continue to ride in automobiles over these roads, in grim defiance and certain risk of our lives at fifty miles per hour as merely administrative, when in truth the administrator is called in. When the squatter squatted his squat, he got title by jumping first into possession. It was a decisive first historic act. The living on the land by himself and his children, though enjoyable, becomes the daily routine. The pioneer broke the first unsubdued prairie sod. It needed to be done but once. It was among the first things. It created the wild prairie into a farm. Later on in years it became simply spring plowing. Our public parks are laid out by the pioneer. We plant a tree or a grove. This is creative. We sit beneath its shade. That is but the administrative part of our laziness. The condemnation of the acre for the school site belonged to the pioneer in the main. It was historic in the community. Thereafter the children simply came to school at nine o'clock in the morning. The building of the old homestead shanty and proving up marked a period, as likewise the building of the new modern house, but the living in same was for the every day.

The original building of the Big Four mills at Sheldon was historic. The people will continue to consume the thousands of barrels of flour ("Prairie Queen") as administrative, "Give us this day our daily bread." The erection of the round house and shops at Sanborn was an important event both for the town and county. Its engines and trains are sent out in dispatch as daily occurrences. The putting up of the soldiers' monument at Hartley in 1891 was itself historic, as likewise was it representative of a great national historic drama. Its people will continue to learn the daily administrative lesson of patriotism and reverence for that which is brave and heroic each day as the years go by. The first establishment of the county fair at Sutherland was creative and historic. Under the statute providing for it there can be but one association. Its annual fairs, however, will be but administrative. The en-

dowment of the public library at Paullina by Frederick G. Frothingham and the construction of its electroliers and electric plant were historic events in the town. The reading of those library books by the light from those electric lights will be a part of the routine of town life.

Other new things will occur as time moves. The pioneer will continue his work in new fields. For instance, perhaps we will yet do the further historic acts of building during the hundred years to come what will be equal to the cement highway, the Roman or Appian Way, if you please, for the automobile across the country and O'Brien county. All else will follow suit.

Let us continue the work of the pioneer, and make our bow, and take off our hat in reverence both to the past and coming pioneer. Let us honor the historic and creative, that we may the better enjoy the administrative. It is the creative and historic which keeps active the memory cells in our brains.

"We linger still in memorie's cell.
Engraven on our hearts."

NAMING OF COUNTY AFTER WILLIAM SMITH O'BRIEN.

The Iowa state Legislature, at its session of 1850, in one law, in a sort of husking bee as it were, named fifty of the ninety-nine counties in one enactment. O'Brien county was christened with good Irish water from the River Boyne itself. At least that was the sentiment. It was the argument in the Legislature to have represented in these names as many different ideas and nationalities as possible, from the Indian names of Winneshiek, Poweshiek and Sac, to the patriotic names of Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Clay, Webster and Polk, to the final awarding of three names of the sons of Erin, to that prince of Irish orators, Robert Emmett, to John Mitchell and then to our own Irishman, William Smith O'Brien, after whom the county was named.

William Smith O'Brien was born in 1803 and died in 1864, and was an educated man as well as a man of ability. He was an Irish politician. He was educated at Harrow School and Trinity College, Cambridge, in England. He entered the English Parliament in 1828. In 1835 he was returned from the county of Limerick and for several years strongly advocated the claims of Ireland to a strictly equal justice with England, in legislative as well as in executive measures. Professing his inability to effect this in the United Legislature, and having been committed to prison for refusing to serve on committees by the speaker's orders, he withdrew from attendance in Parlia-

ment in 1841, and joined that great Irish patriot, Daniel O'Connell, in the agitation for the repeal of the legislative union between England and Ireland. In the progress of that agitation our William Smith O'Brien sided with the party known as "Young Ireland." In other words, he was one of the "Young Turks," or incorrigibles or unconquered. In 1848, when that excitement resulted in a call to arms, he took part in an attempted rebellion in the south of Ireland. He was arrested, convicted and sentenced to death. The sentence, however, was commuted to transportation for life. He, with other political offenders, was exiled to Tasmania, an obscure English colony, but years later was allowed to return.

It can thus be seen that Irishman William Smith O'Brien was no small man, a man worthy of a cause championed by the great Daniel O'Connell and found fighting side by side with such men as Robert Emmett and John Mitchell. The citizens of the county have no reason to be ashamed of William Smith O'Brien or of the name. He was considered by the editors of the "International Cyclopaedia" of sufficient world-wide celebrity to entitle him to a half column write-up in that great compendium of the world's great men and events.

IN THE BEGINNING.

In the beginning, while northwestern Iowa was still nine-tenths raw prairie, with scarcely a tree; with angling roads, running with the ridges of land; with waving prairie grass from ten inches to four feet in height, and with all surrounding things apparently without form and void, O'Brien county was created or rather carved out of Woodbury. Woodbury county, or Waukaw county, as it was first called, was thus the mother hive from which swarmed eleven counties, Woodbury, Ida, Sac, Buena Vista, Cherokee, Plymouth, Sioux, Osceola, Lyon, Buncomb (name later changed) and O'Brien. Woodbury county, thus included, was first named Waukaw county, as recorded in chapter nine, section twenty-seven, proceedings of the third General Assembly of Iowa, in 1851. The following, or fourth, General Assembly (chapter eight), by an act approved January 12, 1853, which was entitled "An Act Organizing Counties therein named," in its fourteenth section provided that those eleven districts should be known as Waukaw county for the purpose of collecting taxes and holding elections and courts and ordering that the then organizing sheriff could call elections at Sargent's Bluffs and such other places as he might designate. This same fourth General Assembly (chapter twelve) passed another act entitled "An Act in Relation to New Counties," on the same date, January 12, 1853, providing a method whereby

either of the eleven counties might, by a named number of citizens, petition the court of Woodbury county, directed to the judges of the court, asking that such county, naming it, might be organized and thus become a legal corporation. This law also provided for the establishment of a county seat, and also provided for the changing of the name of the mother county from Waukau to Woodbury county. Thus early was northwestern Iowa looking for a Missouri terminal for a future city, or capital, so to speak, for this larger territory, on first thought lighting on Sargent's Bluffs, but, for later reasons belonging to Woodbury county history, landed in greater permanency at what is now recognized as northwestern Iowa's business terminal, chief city and distributing point, Sioux City.

THE COURT RECORD.

The petition directed to the court of Woodbury county was signed by seven so-called voters and by sundry soldiers of the Federal army, then under General Sully fighting Indians in these several states. Indeed, and in fact, Hannibal House Waterman was the only real, bona fide, legitimate and square-deal citizen or voter in this county, though six other men (record a little confused whether six or seven) signed this petition and voted with him at the election held February 6, 1860, at the house of this first settler, Hannibal House Waterman, on his United States homestead on the northeast quarter of section 26, township 94, range 39, in Waterman township, named for him, as was likewise the stream flowing through the whole eastern part of the county. We give below the full order of the court relating to the organization of O'Brien county, which recites its own history.

"COUNTY COURT, WOODBURY COUNTY,

"January 22, 1860.

"Whereas, a petition has been presented to this court, signed by Hannibal H. Waterman and seven other citizens of O'Brien county, and I. C. Furber having made oath that the signatures to said petition are a majority of legal voters of said county, and

"Whereas, the said petitioners ask that the said O'Brien county may be organized in accordance with the provisions of law upon that subject.

"Now therefore, I, John P. Allison, county judge of Woodbury county, in the state of Iowa, do hereby order:

"First: That the county of O'Brien, in the state of Iowa, be and the

same is hereby organized from and after the twenty-fifth day of January, A. D. 1860.

"Second: That an election be held in O'Brien county and state aforesaid, at the dwelling house of Hannibal Waterman, on Monday, the sixth day of February, A. D. 1860, for the purpose of electing officers, and that I. C. Furber act as one of the judges of said first election.

"Third: It is ordered, that I. C. Furber act as organizing sheriff, and that he post notices in three of the most public places in said O'Brien county, stating the time and place of holding said election at least ten days prior to the election aforesaid, and make return of his doings to this court.

"JOHN P. ALLISON.

"County Judge."

"COUNTY COURT, WOODBURY COUNTY,

"January 26, 1860.

"Now comes I. C. Furber and qualifies as judge of the election to be held in O'Brien county on the 6th day of February, A. D. 1860, by taking the oath as required in section 249, chapter 25 of the Code of Iowa.

"JOHN P. ALLISON,

"County Judge."

ELECTION ORGANIZATION RECORD.

"At an election held in O'Brien county, at the house of H. H. Waterman, February 6, 1860, I. C. Furber was elected to the office of county judge, A. Murray, clerk of district court, and H. H. Waterman, treasurer and recorder, to hold their offices until the next general election, this being the first election after organization of the county. I. C. Furber acted as organizing sheriff at said election.

"I. C. FURBER,

"County Judge."

FIRST GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 6, 1860.

On the same day that Abraham Lincoln was first elected President, November 6, 1860, O'Brien county's first full-term corps of officers were elected as follows: Henry C. Tiffey, clerk of the district court; I. C. Furber, treasurer and recorder; A. Murray, county judge; Sam H. Morrow, surveyor, and H. H. Waterman, road supervisor. There were eighteen votes cast at this election.

SECOND GENERAL ELECTION, OCTOBER 14, 1861.

At the next, or second, general election the following officers were elected: A. Murray, sheriff; J. W. Bosler, treasurer and recorder; George Hoffman, coroner; John S. Jenkins, county superintendent of schools; A. Phillips, drainage commissioner; H. H. Waterman, township supervisor.

BAD WORK BREWING IN ABOVE ORGANIZATION AND ITS TWO FIRST ELECTIONS.

We give here the results of the first two elections, after its organizing election, to emphasize the fact that right here in its organization, and first two elections, is evidence on its face of a scheme to farm O'Brien county finances. As we have previously remarked, Hannibal House Waterman was the only bona fide settler and citizen. Those other gentry, I. C. Furber, John S. Jenkins, John H. Cofer, James W. Bosler, Moses Lewis, George Hoffman, H. C. Tiffey, A. Phillips and, in a degree, Archibald Murray, and who were among those other seven named in the petition, were but a bunch of schemers who came on with others from Sioux City and Fort Dodge and organized counties and county seats for three counties, Clay, O'Brien and Benna Vista, with county seats handily arranged for, three miles apart, at Old O'Brien, Peterson and Sioux, Rapids, in which well-laid scheme the set of men who acted as officials in O'Brien county would appear as contractors in the various humbug building of bridges and other schemes in the other counties and vice versa. H. C. Tiffey was the best business man of the bunch, so far as papers and their preparation were concerned. James W. Bosler was a politician of some note from Pennsylvania and, a grafter of western innocence, laid out the plans and did the best head work. John H. Cofer was the swamp land gentleman and schemer.

It will be observed that in the petition for organization before the court, these gentry took care that the name of Hannibal H. Waterman, the only real citizen, headed the list, and thus make a showing of good faith, and had him in the first instance appointed to the important offices of treasurer and recorder of the county, but it will be further observed that at the very first general election the same year, with still only nineteen votes cast, that the one and only one bona fide citizen and honorable man, Hannibal H. Waterman, was dismantled of the chief offices and handed the sop of the insignificant offices of township and road supervisor.

Even at this late date it seems astounding that these same gentry were

thus allowed to thus organize and farm in literal fact not simply one but three counties adjoining, in so open-handed a way. It also seems incredible that such a bunch of outlandish proceedings as an organization of three counties in one batch for such financial farming as we will presently see, should have passed the serious order and judgment of the court, and that, too, by such a man so long prominent in Sioux City banking circles as Judge John P. Allison, so long a partner with George Weare in the banking firm of Weare & Allison. We hardly wish to raise a question of his integrity, especially his judicial integrity, but when we also see, later on, that this banking firm of Weare & Allison in the subsequent years purchased thousands of dollars of the depreciated county warrants, not only of these, but other counties in Iowa similarly organized, and later sued them, got them into judgment, thus putting them out of reach of defense, and later having the bonds of the county issued for them, and they usually buying them at about thirty cents on the dollar, and then collecting full face value with ten per cent. interest, we are at least entitled to raise the question of his good judgment, if we do not as to his integrity.

We might also criticize with justice the early fathers or legislators of the state in leaving one lame loophole in the law above referred to providing for the organization of counties. Had these solons or lawmakers provided that no county could thus have been organized until it had at least five hundred or, better, one thousand voters, it would have saved O'Brien and many other counties much trouble. While votes of honor are often given to our pioneer solons, it would seem that O'Brien county could, without blushing, enter its protest that the General Assembly of Iowa for 1851 were thus direct in this duty.

THESE SEVEN OTHERS SIMPLY "LIT."

As a literal matter of fact, these "seven others" had simply and suddenly lit, as it were, for the express purpose of not simply organizing, but farming the cash or infantile credit of this and many other counties in the West. These three handy county seats in nearby corners formed a grand triumvirate. These seven others, or twenty-one in the three counties, were about as vigorous a lot of rascals as went unhung. They proceeded to issue solemn contracts and issue county warrants and other evidences of indebtedness to the enormous amount of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars (and upwards) on this one county alone. Verily the seven had her to wife, and the bride paid the bills.

(3)

"WE ARE SEVEN."

This phrase, "seven others," had a special meaning. One of these "seven," in a personal conversation with the writer many years ago, boasted that he was one of the seven. Said he: "We built a bridge, and then made an elaborate report. Then we drew our county warrant. Then I and we of that seven tore down that bridge. Then we built that same bridge—excuse me, another bridge—in another prairie slough, and drew another warrant, and so on until seven bridges were built, and each of the seven got a share. Why shouldn't we tear it down? Nobody ever crossed on it, no road there even." Then this boastful organizer of new counties, who was of a considerable literary turn of mind, laughingly and dramatically recited several stanzas of Byron's "Seven Prisoners of Chillon," in a fine oratorical voice, making special emphasis on the words of the stanza, "We are seven." Said he: "Byron's 'Prisoners of Chillon' suffered in chains for their religion. Didn't we suffer in chains like them in this then God-forsaken wilderness of a country, even worse than in chains." Then, in grim satire, he went on: "And then, with due regard to the comfort, happiness and general welfare of my dear family, I tore down that damned bridge and built for myself a 'home, sweet home.'" This braggadocia statement was no joke. We, of course, can make due allowance for the magic number seven, and of his tendencies to the classical, but it was too literally true both in spirit and in fact. He then went on further: "Lumber was scarce in them days, and lumber for seven bridges was more than we could get hauled up into that neck of the woods in them days." Then, with a twinkle in his eye, he said: "Well, Mr. Peck, you are one of these reformers, and I want you to have a little credit for it, but we might as well have a little fun out of it." Had he added that the "seven others" should have been punished as Byron's Prisoners of Chillon were punished he would have hit the truer mark.

O'BRIEN COUNTY TO THE FRONT.

Lest, however, this first and some other chapters may raise a false and bad impression of the county; lest the outside reader may jump at a hasty conclusion, let us pause and anticipate a statement of an historic fact of this year of grace 1914. Land here is worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. It is true, as will be seen in further chapters and items, that our people did discuss the feasibility of a defeat of this debt, and well they might, yet finally they decided of themselves to pay it all. That high sense

of honor prevailed, that our people in the future would feel and enjoy and hand down to its future citizens a loftier pride and honor by paying off even an unjust debt, rather than to be forever subjecting themselves to be jolted by the odium of bankruptcy. The county did not even compromise. It overcame its troubles in full. In this year 1914 the county is absolutely free of debt. The last cent was paid off in 1908. At the outset, then, the reader will pardon us and at same time will feel a thrill of pride when we record these true historic words, "O'Brien county paid every cent of its debt."

THE FIRST CITIZEN AND HIS FAMILY.

Hannibal House Waterman was born March 23, 1821, in Cattaraugus county, New York, where he was raised on a farm, and attended the district school until twelve years of age, when, with his parents, they moved to Erie county, New York, where, with them, he lived until he was twenty-one years of age. He attended Allegheny College, at Meadville, Pennsylvania, for a time. Later he went into the lumber woods of that region and remained seven years. This well fitted him for the rougher experiences of the West.

Mrs. Hannah H. Waterman was the first white woman in O'Brien county, and was born in Cattaraugus county, New York, December 2, 1836, but, as a singular coincidence, Mr. and Mrs. Waterman never met until the autumn of 1852 in Bremer county, Iowa, where they were married in June, 1854. One child, Emily A., now Emily A. McLaren, of Sioux City, was born there. They resided in Bremer county until the spring of 1856, when they decided to go still further west. They arrived in O'Brien county, then Woodbury county for taxation purposes (though he thought for some time that he was in Clay county), on July 11, 1856. It was too late for a crop, consequently but little could be done that summer other than to put up meager buildings.

On May 7, 1887, one of the writers hereof (J. L. E. Peck) visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Waterman, at their residence and on their pre-emption claim on the northeast quarter of section 26, township 94, range 39, in Waterman township, which bears his name, where they resided until, in their old age, they retired from the farm and removed to Sutherland, where he died on September 2, 1908. At this visit the writer obtained from their own lips the narrative of their lives, as well as many facts and items found in this history.

They were very hospitable people. Mr. Waterman was a tall man, full six feet, swarthy, wore full beard, of lightish color, as likewise was his hair,

which later on in years was mingled with gray, had bright, clear blue eyes, and was a hearty, pleasant old gentleman. He was an intensely religious man. He was an exhorter or local preacher. His religion moved with each movement of his body and in every hour of his life. Mrs. Hannah H. Waterman is a hearty, well-preserved lady and still resides at Sutherland. She passed through all those rugged experiences in a pioneer country.

THEIR SEVERAL HOUSES.

On the occasion of that visit the writer had his horses fed in the first building ever erected in the county, built in July, 1856, a log building, in size eighteen by twenty-two feet, which was used as the first home until their second and better house was built in 1860, and wherein they lived for twenty-seven years, and which was destroyed by fire in 1887. At the time of the writer's visit in 1887 they were temporarily living in the third house erected in the county, being built as a tenant house for "Old Dutch" Fred Feldman, who was his tenant. They had for years used it as a storehouse and for machinery. This building, so ancient, was in 1887 settled considerably into the ground and was situated on a little branch or spring brook of the Little Sioux river. Later on in this year of 1887 they built a fine, new, commodious, two-story frame residence, on the same ground occupied by the older home destroyed by fire. This residence is one quarter of a mile south of the mouth of Waterman creek, or river, which bears his name, and one-half mile southeast of the old iron bridge, built in 1872 and which until 1897 spanned the Little Sioux river.

Mrs. Waterman pitifully referred to the loss of their home, the "old home," that had been theirs for twenty-seven years, and excused the meager household accommodations they had saved from the fire, and had not yet had time to replenish. The writer's remark to her that "fires did not always leave even millionaires in the most desirable positions in life," placed all in a good mood.

The only natural timber of any consequence in the county being on the Waterman and Little Sioux, in the vicinity of his claim and on his claim, furnished sufficient material for his log house, eighteen by twenty-two feet, which was later used as a stable as stated.

Mr. and Mrs. Waterman arrived in O'Brien county with two yoke of oxen, a wagon and household goods. As autumn was near at hand, they realized that winter was not far in the rear, and they were without food except the prospect of game, and possessed but a small amount of money.

Mr. Waterman started his hired hand, a one-armed Dutchman, to Fort Dodge, with instructions to purchase five hundred weight of flour and two hundred weight of meal. Sad were the tidings to the ears of Mr. and Mrs. Waterman, as the hired man, on his return, informed them that all he could procure was a few hundred weight of flour. Trappers, stragglers, bands of Indians through the country, and occasionally an emigrant like himself, going somewhere west, soon made inroads on the flour.

ANOTHER OX-TEAM TRIP.

In December, 1856, this one-armed Dutchman was again detailed with the two yoke of oxen to go southwest in search of more provisions. This time he went as far as Shelby county, traversing what is now Cherokee, Ida and Crawford counties. A severe winter set in, snow first falling in great quantity, which continued to increase until everything was enveloped, after which the weather became intensely cold. The one-armed man found himself powerless to return, snow-bound in a strange country, with two yoke of cattle looking to him and his one arm for support. He did not, because he could not, return until spring. While putting in the winter in Shelby county he kept his oxen (all four) alive by digging corn from the stalks out in the snow, doing this work, remember, with but one arm. After Dutchy had dug corn all the winter to keep the four oxen alive, the owner of the corn took the best pair of oxen as pay for the corn, besides getting Dutchy's work for nothing. Dutchy returned, as stated, toward spring, minus one yoke of oxen and the hair on the oxen he brought back was turned the wrong way, not in very good condition for opening up a new farm.

In the meantime a family by the name of Black was burned out down in Cherokee county and Mrs. Black and her child were brought up to Mrs. Waterman's on a hand sled, and they had to feed the woman, the child and those who brought them to their house for some days. The Black family literally lived in the snow banks four or five days, in their desperate effort to reach Mr. Waterman's house, where they were heartily welcomed and made as comfortable as possible. All this preyed on the small stock of provisions. Mr. Waterman's family subsisted for six weeks, during that winter, on beef, except a small allowance of flour Mrs. Waterman reserved for her babe.

INDIANS IN O'BRIEN COUNTY.

In addition to all these troubles, they must also undergo an experience with the Indians. The first Sunday after they arrived in the county, a band

of five Indians visited them and were very friendly. Numerous other friendly dealings with the Indians followed. Sometime in February, 1857, the Indians seemed to be somewhat scattered and roamed down the river from Minnesota where they lived. Many of the bands visited Mr. Waterman on very friendly terms and paid for everything. They said they would not beg, had plenty of money, and many of them showed Mr. Waterman several hundred dollars in gold, saying, "We got heap money, too much money."

It appears that when these Indians had arrived down the river at Smithland in Monona county, or near there, they had corralled a number of elk in the bend of the river and killed the whole herd. Some of these Indians (Sioux) had, in the past, perpetrated stealings of corn, pigs, etc., greatly to the annoyance of the settlers. General Harvey had notified the Indians to keep off the lands belonging to the settlers. Mr. Waterman thinks there were about sixty armed Indians in the whole band. By some means the whites at Smithland and in that vicinity took possession of all their guns, and the Indians were allowed to camp near town. The Smithland people aver that they intended to set them across the river in the morning, and return their guns to them. But in the middle of the night a boy rode into the Indian camp with the story that General Harvey was coming and right on hand. They stampeded like so many wild devils, leaving guns, dead elk and everything. The next day they ascertained that General Harvey was nowhere near and concluded that it was a put-up job to beat them out of their guns and game. It was too late for the Smithland people to prove that they were going to return the guns.

The father-in-law of J. L. E. Peck, George H. Wilkinson, who lived for many years in Primghar, was in Smithland just after this incident occurred in 1857. The people of Smithland, says Mr. Wilkinson, at that time conceded that Smith, the founder of the town, had acted rashly, and that the act of the Smithland people, or those in charge, was wrong.

Of course these Indians at once became hostile. At this crisis the settlers dared not return the guns. This left the Indians in the dead of winter without guns or provisions. They started for their home in Minnesota and the farther they proceeded the more angry and hostile they became. At first they commenced stealing, and then to take guns from the settlers.

On their return from Smithland, Mr. Waterman told the writer, "Seven big strapping Sioux bucks stopped at my house; they were so tall I had to look up at them." These same Indians had been to his house before, and very friendly, but this time they were ugly. They introduced themselves by rushing into the house and reciting the Smithland affair and a harangue about

the "bad white men" down there. They stalked into the house and began stealing. Six of them had guns they said they had taken from settlers. They took combs, files, pocket compass, Mr. Waterman's only white shirt, scissors, and, in brief, all they could lay hands on, in value to forty or fifty dollars. They next proposed to take his gun. Dutchy had not yet returned from his trip southwest for provisions and his gun was to his mind the big half he had. Mr. Waterman showed resistance, when one of the bucks, Mr. Waterman says, "struck me in the back with a squaw hatchet. I had a long scuffle with one of them which was terminated by the other bucks, except one, leveling their guns at me and firing, but their guns fortunately were loaded only with power, except a young buck's gun, which he fired into the ceiling where the bullet lodged. I am satisfied they only intended to frighten me, but they got my gun just the same. After this little introductory was over, they quieted down to quite an extent. Then they commenced to banter me on the proposition to sell the gun back to me. They finally agreed on two dollars and fifty cents and I handed over my last money. Then they left."

This same band of Indians was next heard of in the vicinity of Peterson, three and one-half miles up the river from Mr. Waterman's, where they committed other and similar outrages, leaving there for the scene of that terrible massacre in the vicinity of Spirit and Okoboji lakes, thence on to still greater outrages in Minnesota. It is quite probable, had Mr. Waterman's home been just a little further on, that, in their anger as they proceeded, he would have met the Spirit Lake results.

While a little outside the historic facts in O'Brien county, yet, as these Indians were at Mr. Waterman's just the second day before the massacre, it is proper that a brief statement of that awful affair should be given. This massacre commenced at the home of R. Gardner, on the southwest bank of West Okoboji, on the morning of March 8, 1857, but a few days after the unfortunate Smithland affair. Mr. Gardner and family were at breakfast. An Indian entered and was given a place at the table. Soon others entered and were given places also. They all at first pretended friendship. They were treated kindly and shared the hospitality of Mr. Gardner's home. After a little time they began to be overbearing and demanded ammunition, together with other articles. They remained at Mr. Gardner's some hours and when they left they took his cattle with them. Toward evening Mr. Gardner ventured from home for the purpose of ascertaining the true situation of affairs. Below we give the words of Abbie Sharp Gardner, as contained in her history of the massacre, a history of three hundred and twelve

pages: "Father hastily returned, saying, 'Nine Indians are coming, now only a short distance from the house, and we are all doomed to die.' They entered the house and demanded more flour, and as father turned to get them what remained of our scanty store, they shot him through the heart, while other Indians instantly turned upon mother and Mrs. Luce, seized them by the arms and beat them over the heads with the butts of their guns, then dragged them out doors, and killed them in the most cruel and shocking manner." The entire family were butchered, except the author of the history, who was taken captive and retained for many months, the full particulars of which are given in her account above referred to.

Later on, in 1895, the Legislature made an appropriation of five thousand dollars to erect a monument, which was built, commemorative of the massacre. It is a fine granite shaft, fifty-five feet in height, with proper inscriptions. The dedicatory services were held on the lake and on the spot in the summer of 1896, and were attended by the writer hereof. Citizens from all over the state were there. During the several succeeding days the bones of forty-six of the victims who suffered the same fate were gathered from up and down the lake. These dreadful massacres produced numerous scares in O'Brien county. At one time a mere flock of sandhill cranes caused the scare. At another time a herd of hogs frightened a whole neighborhood, and at another a drove of cattle. In fact, it was the fear produced by that real calamity, rather than the scares themselves.

THE ABILITY TO SAY GOOD-BYE INDICATING STRENGTH OF CHARACTER.

It takes courage to say good-bye. Mr. Waterman said good-bye in New York to come west. Thousands have done likewise. Charles Dickens tells us that many of us, when we fear to say good-bye, will remark to some friend, "I will see you again," when they know within themselves that that very remark is the real good-bye. In 1862, when, with six covered wagons, the family, with others, started from the old Eastern home, the little five-year-old brother of the writer had said the fond farewells to all the relatives, and then at last to grandmother, and the writer lay down in the bottom of the covered wagon, and looked back at grandmother as long as she could be seen, and past the turn in the road. When still several weeks on the road, and the day's travel seemed tedious and the horses were tired, this little fellow broke out, "Usses left usses grandma, but usses hasn't left usses selves." The grit that could say good-bye was on hand to do and dare—yes, on hand ready to advance to the front of the stage in a new country and do

its part. That quality has made this country strong. It produced grit and courage to meet the emergency. It has also done one other thing in every community in the West, not only for O'Brien county, but all over the United States. It has furnished to every county in the country the combined brain power and resourcefulness from everywhere else on earth. Thus O'Brien county has its Germans, Norwegians, Swedes, Danes, Hollanders, Irish, English, Scotch, French, and in fact, people from every state in the Union, and all together have added strength and made up that combined forty-horse-power of character that has made this a great, great country.

DARK AND BRIGHT SIDES OF THE RECORD.

We would not be true to the history of the county did we not give both the sunshine and shadow, its "darkest Africa" period as well as its automobile age. O'Brien county has had its share. Indeed, perhaps a county would not rise to its best level, like individuals, unless it had to overcome the plagues of Egypt, so to speak.

ANNA WATERMAN, FIRST WHITE CHILD.

On the 30th day of May, 1857, occurred the birth of the first white child in the county, Anna Waterman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hannibal H. Waterman. She was the second white child born in the three counties of Clay, Buena Vista and O'Brien. Eleven children in all were born to Mr. and Mrs. Waterman. Anna Waterman was married to D. W. Kinyon and they moved to Woodbine, Iowa, where, later, after a few days' illness, she departed this life, leaving her husband and the three children.

Mr. and Mrs. Waterman were members of the Methodist Episcopal church, he uniting at the age of seventeen. He was very emphatic in his religious views and quoted much Scripture, carrying the same out in his devotions, and he was much of an exhorter in his religion. He believed that all things were ordered from on high during all these years for his good.

The following additional statements were written down in full and read to him by the writer at the time, to which he assented.

PROPOSAL TO ORGANIZE A COUNTY.

About the last month of 1859, one James W. Bosler, a short man of sandy complexion, came up into this country from Sioux City and proposed

to organize a county. Bosler achieved a later fame with J. W. Dorsey, ex-United States senator, in the "Star Route" frauds and operating, with Dorsey, an extensive cattle ranch in New Mexico.

The very idea of organizing a county for one man's benefit was preposterous. When Mr. Waterman was interviewed by Bosler concerning the matter he replied: "I am farming and know nothing about organizing." Bosler assured him that he could have the choice of the county offices and it would be well not to make any objections. Bosler then departed. But in a short time Mr. Waterman ascertained that this man Bosler originally came from Pennsylvania, and that others were coming from Sioux City for the purpose of organizing.

BOSLER APPEARS AGAIN.

Early in February, 1860, Bosler, with seven or eight others, arrived, among them I. C. Furber, Henry C. Tiffey and Archibald Murray, who said an election would be held February 6, 1860. Two or three of the number left for Sioux City before the day appointed for the election arrived. The day arrived and the election was held in Mr. Waterman's house. The ballot box consisted of a hat and the total number of votes polled were seven, only five of which pretended to belong to either Woodbury or O'Brien county. Two votes were borrowed, one from Buena Vista and one from Clay county, James A. Gleason from the former and a Mr. Freney from the latter. Mr. Waterman says both men were from Clay county, but the record says Gleason was from Buena Vista. They all voted. Mr. Waterman was generously elected, as assured by Bosler, to the office of treasurer, recorder and superintendent of schools. These unusual doings, said Mr. Waterman, will explain the indebtedness of the county.

Soon after this election the old log court house was built directly in front of Mr. Waterman's house and is the "temporary office" the record speaks of as built by Archibald Murray for the county judge. I. C. Furber, Archibald Murray, L. McClelland and H. C. Tiffey boarded with Mr. Waterman the remainder of the winter.

THE FORT DODGE CROWD.

Everything went pleasantly with this Sioux City crowd until in the summer of 1860, when John H. Cofer, Charles C. Smeltzer and one Messervy, hearing of the lucrative pasture the Sioux City fellows were enjoying,

came up from Fort Dodge with about a dozen men. Cofer conveyed the idea to Mr. Waterman that they were actual settlers and would immediately proceed to the opening up of farms, which would be the means of bringing many other settlers into the county. By this time, says Mr. Waterman, "I began to perceive that Bosler was a shrewd, far-seeing man, whose chief mission evidently was to procure the dollars. Myself and family welcomed Cofer, or the Fort Dodge crowd, as actual newcomers and settlers. A brisk contest and feud at once sprung up between these Sioux City and Fort Dodge crowds, the latter being in the majority, and a fight was on for supremacy. I sided with Cofer because I thought he was here for actual settlement. My course enraged the Sioux City crowd against me. This contest between these factions was so fierce for a time that I feared an actual physical combat. The two factions finally compromised, as necessarily they must. One of the conditions of this compromise was the exaction by the Sioux City crowd that I must get out, and keep out, of public matters. Evidently I was not what they wanted.

MR. WATERMAN'S LAND JUMPED.

"A short time after this I was notified from Sioux City that my land was jumped by one Charles E. Hedges, and that H. C. Tiffey, Bosler and Furber were the instigators of the scheme. This report was soon confirmed. It was not long before I was waited upon by this trio of gentlemen, who took it upon themselves to inform me that they would let me have my land back and release the contest provided I would resign the county offices I held. What else could I do? To be sure there was plenty of land, but there were my improvements. I did resign December 11, 1860, as the records show." The abstract of title on Mr. Waterman's land also shows that Charles E. Hedges was so connected with same and that they made the lever strong enough to make him be good.

"I think," says Mrs. Waterman, emphatically, "that that was a good sized price to get our own land back, that is the idea of it." Mr. Waterman added, with much emphasis and earnestness, "I have never been in half the danger, or suffered so much from the Indians, as from the whites." Mr. Waterman added that they were all rebel sympathizers and of Southern principles, and that H. C. Tiffey was a Virginian, a speculator and Southern gentleman. James Bosler, though from Pennsylvania, was a rebel, as likewise was Furber, though the latter was from Massachusetts. John R. Pumphrey was also from Virginia, though he served in the Union army for a short time. At one election during the war there were only two Republican

votes cast in the three counties. In fact, these new states during the war were dodging places for many rebels and copperheads.

Mr. Waterman was exceeding emphatic "that there were some mighty mean white men in this world." Mr. Waterman further went on to say: "I have never read over that earliest record, but I am satisfied from what I have heard that it contains entries to which I never consented, and that funds were drawn in my name by those fellows that I never knew of or realized except to my proper amount. I attended to my farm, and H. C. Tiffey did the office work; I knew but little about it, and was forced out in the same year in order to get my land back. The record says, I think, 'that Bosler took my place,' but he did not; he sent his clerk, whose name was Stuart, up from Sioux City to do the work and I thought for years that Stuart was the official." Henry C. Tiffey died at Fort Dodge about 1871.

Waterman says that the "eighteen-foot square court house" was in fact about fourteen by twenty feet in size. And, also, that that log court house was used on his farm for a year and six months and that one Moses Lewis also lived in it as a residence. Moses Lewis committed suicide some years ago at Fort Dodge.

Mr. Waterman continued: "They tried to purchase forty acres of me for a county seat, but I had had all the experience with them in the land business I cared for." Land was finally bought of H. C. Tiffey and then it was that O'Brien county was born. The old log court house was then moved to old O'Brien and later on used as a school house and residence, and in 1868-1869 by Bostwick and R. G. Allen as a blacksmith shop, and still later by W. C. Green and Lem C. Green as a stable. Meantime Waterman built the then new house (the one that was destroyed by fire in 1887) for the Cofer family. Then all but Mr. Waterman and family moved to Old O'Brien.

Mrs. Hannah H. Waterman taught the first school, with three scholars enrolled. But before the fall term was taught in 1860, the new magnate, Cofer, preferred that his daughter should teach, and she followed, with seven scholars.

Right here the reader will no doubt be pleased to know that Bosler was, once at least, the loser, as the following will show: "While the log court house was being built, a work bench sat in front. Bosler arrived from Sioux City on horse back. He tied his horse to the work bench and, while Bosler was absent for a few minutes, some Indians sneaked up and stole the horse. This was the last ever seen of Bosler's four footed propeller.

"About this same period Jacob Kirchner erected the first school house,

a frame building, wherein John R. Pumphrey first resided after he was married. In those days they had what they called 'swamp land goods' (see item entitled Swamp Lands), and traded warrants for them. Tiffey bought some second-hand goods, and presented every woman in the county with a new dress. Mrs. Waterman was also presented with a whole box of goods from Tiffey. All our trading before W. C. Green opened his store was done at Sioux City and Fort Dodge. We would send our boarders to market for us in trips made by them.

"I. C. Furber remained in the county only two years, and before he departed expressed himself as being ashamed of the manner in which he jumped my land. I always considered Furber, at heart, a good meaning man. I first met Rouse B. Crego (later county treasurer) at a camp meeting near Smithland. I could never understand Crego. He was part of the time a very bad man, and part of the time a Methodist preacher. He could conduct a good-sized drunk or a revival meeting with the same energy.

FIRST ACTUAL HOMESTEAD ENTRY.

"The first actual homestead entry that was maintained was by Archibald Murray. A man by the name of Zoller, a German, however, had had his warrant on the land first, namely on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 14, township 94, range 39. I showed it to him and located him, but he soon got discouraged, folded his tent and departed. I then showed it to D. W. Inman, and he decided to take it. I wanted settlers, but these officials at Old O'Brien didn't want any." The reader may judge why. Archibald Murray hastened to enter it. His object was to prevent Inman from settling. The evidence appeared from various sources that no settlers were desired by these Old O'Brien officials. The Inmans then went up into what is now Grant township and located, as the Grant list will show. These brothers, Daniel W. Inman and Chester W. Inman (later county treasurer), were the first legitimate settlers in O'Brien county after Hannibal Waterman and Old Dutch Fred, though Henry F. Smith and Ed T. Parker arrived about the same time, or in 1868. Moses Lewis, H. C. Tiffey and Archibald Murray each did a little gentleman farming close to town, or, as Mrs. Waterman said, "Mrs. Lewis and her boy done it."

FREDERICH FELDMAN, "OLD DUTCH FRED."

"I am der peoples. Der rest all be officers. Don't it?" Fred Feldman, or Old Dutch Fred, entered and homesteaded the west half of the north-

west quarter of section 34, township 94, range 39. (James H. Scott, however, got the United States patent.) Mr. Waterman built a tenement house, Dutch Fred plastered it and rented Waterman's farm. But little is known of his history. He told Mrs. Waterman he had deserted from the German army and was living a secluded life to escape the punishment of death. His "frau" would not follow him to so wild a country. His quaint expression, "I am der peoples und der rest be de officers," was used sarcastically by the newer settlers referring to the bunch of looters then in office, and whom each new voter desired to root out. He died in 1873 with the request that he be buried by the side of his friend, Archibald Murray. Sentimental requests in a new country are not always fulfilled. Poor Old Dutch Fred, who had lived a hermit life, far from wife, home and fatherland, to escape King William's wrath, could not enforce his request. Old Dutch Fred, who would shake his ragged clothes, and laugh, "dese be boor dings mit clothes, but Old Dutch Fredt be under here und his heart beat shust like udder mans," lies buried in a lonely grave on his homestead claim, unmarked and soon, perhaps, unknown.

JUMPED AGAIN.

Mr. Waterman had pre-empted his land. He was entitled to a homestead. He made an entry on the northwest quarter of section 22, township 95, range 40, Highland township, and got it under way, when his land was jumped again. A woman living on that section heard of it and, taking her child in her arms, walked thirteen miles to inform him of what was going on. That woman was Henrietta Richardson, wife of John Richardson, later residents for many years of both Primghar and Sanborn. Mr. Waterman was too late and lost his land, but remembered with gratitude this arduous effort of kindness on the part of Mrs. Richardson. In justice to Mrs. Catrina Dolbrick, the patentee, it may be said it was not her doings. Again Mr. Waterman concluded that this is a wicked world and that the whites can "out-devil" the "Injuns."

COMMENT ON MR. WATERMAN'S NARRATIVE.

It will thus be seen from the above narrative of Mr. Waterman and from other items in this history that up to 1869 O'Brien county was in a complete state of irresponsibility. She was an orphan without a guardian, a ship, though sound, whose helmsmen and crew were in the hold playing

hookey with the cargo, expecting to let her float as best she might as soon as they had had their fill. Their only passenger, Mr. Waterman, could but look on. It was as if the United States government should have organized the state of Iowa, with ninety-nine men, one man for each county. The record list of the old homesteaders shows that they nearly all came in 1870, 1871 and 1872. They began to stop such doings as soon as they could get control, and would have gotten control sooner had it not been for the grasshopper scourge. O'Brien county has been much abused for these doings, but, as is seen, there were none to say nay or object. The main body of the debt was created the first four or five years. The looters during that period had the majority. It can be seen from the one item of H. C. Tiffey making presents of so many dresses and goods that the bunch were nursing their job, and postponing the fatal day when their doings would be ended by the votes of an exasperated people, as was later done.

CHAPTER II.

FIRST BEGINNINGS.

ONE SESSION OF THE FIRST 1860 BOODLE BOARD.

It has often been asked by what process those early boodlers built up such a debt of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars against the county. We shall not attempt to make an itemized list of the sundry bills allowed, as that would be too lengthy; indeed, we could not, as without doubt many warrants were issued that were later sued upon that never were made of record. This history must deal with facts and policies and not with mere details or figures. However, to illustrate their methods, we will give a list of the bills allowed at one session of the board of supervisors, namely, the session of September 2, 1861, which would be in the second year:

Hedges & Company, stationery -----	\$ 200.00
I. C. Furber, office rent -----	300.00
J. H. Cofer, wood furnished offices -----	500.00
James H. Bosler, wood furnished offices -----	200.00
John H. Cofer, books furnished offices -----	300.00
Henry C. Tiffey, transcribing records -----	300.00
I. C. Furber, digging well for county -----	150.00
Henry C. Tiffey, making out tax list -----	150.00
John S. Jenkins, making map of county -----	200.00
C. E. Hedges, transcribing records -----	300.00
J. A. Gilbert, superintending swamp lands -----	500.00
Henry C. Tiffey, office rent -----	300.00
Archibald Murray, office rent -----	300.00
Henry C. Tiffey, salary -----	500.00
I. C. Furber, salary -----	500.00
John S. Jenkins, surveying roads -----	700.00
John H. Cofer, salary -----	50.00
James W. Bosler, making out delinquent tax list ..	250.00
Archibald Murray, building county building -----	2,000.00
Henry C. Tiffey, for forty acres of land -----	2,000.00
John H. Jenkins, building bridges -----	8,000.00
 Total -----	 \$17,500.00

Several curious facts may be observed in connection with the above bills. The county was then nineteen months old only, and with practically no revenue in actual cash. Even in this year 1914, after fifty-one years and final prosperity, and with seventeen thousand people, at no session of our board will there be allowed bills in such aggregate. Another curious thing is the fact that these bills are practically for even hundreds of dollars. Here are twenty-one large bills, which, in the ordinary course of business, for items such as digging a well, transcribing records, surveying roads, stationery, etc., there would ordinarily be odd cents. Every one of them rounds up with even dollars and most of them with even hundreds. Another interesting item is the bill of Archibald Murray for two thousand dollars for a county building, which is none other than the colossal old log court house, and still, with a two thousand dollar allowance for a building spot, many charges of hundreds of dollars are allowed for office rent. When we add to this also the fact that the whole written record of all that the board did in creating the whole debt, together with all other business, was written on twenty-four sheets of foolscap paper, not even bound, this office rent falls a joke with the rest. Then observe that J. A. Gilbert is allowed seven hundred dollars for superintending swamp lands, and then the fact that in still another meeting of the board they allowed the blessed James W. Bosler a special fee of one thousand dollars for securing to the county these same swamp lands, and then the fact there never were but two hundred and forty acres of swamp land in fact in the county, and then the final act of this board to make a contract with this same Bosler to build a bridge which, of record, they valued at five hundred dollars, and for the same deeded to him fifty thousand acres of what the bunch concluded were or might be swamp lands, and which he sold all over the East for good title lands, it is plain they were cutting and slicing things up with both edges of the knife. We may perhaps also add a smile at the fell swoop in a one-line bill, with no itemization, of eight thousand dollars for bridges, to John S. Jenkins. The name of this same John S. Jenkins appears in hundreds of places in the deeding of these fifty thousand acres of so-called swamp lands, as they were handed down and divided up into parcels among the bunch, as the deed records show. Then also add the little item of even two hundred dollars to this same John S. Jenkins for making a map of the county, which was none other than the map made by these gentry to show purchasers the people they were deluding at the other end of the line also. However, itemization would have been of no avail, as the list on its face shows it to be a straight-out steal anyway.

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As none of the bridges were ever heard of afterward, it all seems humorous, when not serious. But all this is but a specimen of what scores of counties in those early times had to endure, only O'Brien county caught more than its share. They labored at more than one session with this precious swamp land. Even back of this board meeting on October 30, 1860, is this dainty and humorous solemn entry by the court relating to these same swamp lands:

"Office of County Judge,

"October 30, 1860.

"The court has this day awarded a contract to Lewis McCoy for selecting the swamp lands of O'Brien county and properly returning same, which work is to be performed during the year 1861, for which he shall receive the sum of two thousand dollars, and, being satisfied that the said McCoy will perform said work, said amount is hereby ordered issued.

"I. C. FURBER,

"County Judge."

Many other sums were allowed at different times, with this same clause in it, namely, "Being satisfied that said work will be done, the warrant is ordered issued." It seems almost a wonder that they should have even gone to the trouble of such formalities.

EQUAL DIVISION OF THE SPOILS.

We will give one other example of a curious bunch of six bills allowed at a session three years later, May 11, 1864. It would seem, as near as may be determined, the sum of about three thousand dollars had been collected in the treasury on taxes, and it needed to be divided up. At all events the following bills were allowed:

J. L. McFarland, salary county judge -----	\$ 500.00
David Carroll, recorder -----	500.00
Henry C. Tiffey, treasurer -----	500.00
James W. Bosler, attorney fees -----	500.00
Archibald Murray, old account against the county--	500.00
William Payne, old account against the county----	500.00
Total -----	\$3,000.00

We call attention to the fact of the division on various items being not only even hundreds of dollars, but each bill exactly the same. They were

each carrying out the Golden Rule, "to do unto others as they do to you," at least squaring up with each other.

THEY EVEN SCALPED THE SOLDIER'S BOUNTY MONEY.

One other oddity in scalping was carried out at the session of the board January 2, 1865. It was during the dark period of the War of the Rebellion. Abraham Lincoln had issued sundry calls for volunteers and bounties for enlistment had been offered over the country by individuals, towns, counties and states. It is all but humorous to see this bunch of gentlemen, mostly from the South, during the war itself, refraining from fighting on their own side, and keeping very quiet up among the jungles of a wild prairie country in a treeless Northwest, exhibiting such patriotism by generously asking the board (which was themselves) to vote a bounty as a commendable duty to their country. The board magnanimously voted the sum of seven thousand five hundred dollars bounty.

Then the board proceeded to solemnly and humorously engage a local party as financial agent to sell these bonds. He sold them, as per his report, for twenty cents on the dollar, which report is dated and filed October 17, 1865, several months after the war was over, in fact; but perhaps news was slow in those days. We can give them the benefit of that doubt and proceed with the further humors of this deal. This produced, as we can figure, thirty-five hundred dollars. Then they divided this patriotic pot into three equal parts, thus:

Archibald Murray -----	\$1,166.66
William Payne -----	1,166.67
I. C. Furber -----	1,166.67
Total -----	\$3,500.00

The record recites that this bounty was paid them, they being credited to O'Brien county as soldiers. Mr. Schee's Army Record fails to enumerate them. But the more humorous thing was that these same worthies were all drawing all sorts of big salaries as county officials at the same time. It will be observed in this instance, however, they did not divide on even hundreds but exact cents, but they they were dealing with each other now. The "divvy" must be fair. It was all simply a series of schemes of diverting the several issues of warrants into the pockets of this bunch of looters. However, they were evidently looking out for one possibility, that in event

they were sued they might have some semblance of an excuse of a consideration, and a soldier's bounty had an appealing sentiment.

Still a further humor had to be added, in that the O'Brien county board, at a later session, awarded the neat sum of one thousand dollars for very valuable services as financial agent in selling these soldier bounty bonds of seventeen thousand five hundred dollars at twenty cents on the dollar, that they, the patriots of O'Brien county, might divide it up among themselves.

As a sort of *finis addendum*, the board allowed C. C. Smeltzer, an attorney from Fort Dodge, the sum of three thousand dollars' for services to the county as legal advisor during the year 1860, which, he it observed, was the first year of the county. We may well stretch our imaginations to conceive what on earth they needed with three thousand dollars in legal advice, when all they needed was a warrant book and a bottle of ink, except that they were dividing things up among them about even. These items will perhaps be sufficient to explain the general plans of these schemers. These schemes took on varying phases of both the serious and humorous.

FIRST THINGS DONE.

Hannibal House Waterman was the first white man in the county.

His wife, Hannah H. Waterman, was the first white woman.

Their daughter, Anna Waterman, was the first white child born, May 30, 1857.

Old father James Bicknell preached the first sermon in 1857.

Rev. Seymour Snyder was the first regular preacher in 1862.

Old O'Brien was the first town.

O'Brien was the name of the first township.

Moses Lewis was the first postmaster.

Mrs. Hannah Waterman taught the first school in 1860.

A daughter of John H. Cofer taught the second school.

B. F. McCormack was the first Sunday school superintendent.

Archibald Murray filed the first homestead entry.

Daniel W. Inman and Chester W. Inman filed the next following homesteads.

John R. Pumphrey was the first banker.

William Clark Green was the first merchant.

Al Bostwick and R. G. Allen were the first blacksmiths.

Rouse B. Crego ran the first hotel.

Mrs. Roma W. Woods established the first circulating library.
Judge A. H. Hubbard held the first term of court.
Adam Towberman was foreman of the first grand jury.
The Sioux City & St. Paul was the first railroad.
Sheldon was the first railroad town.
Sheldon was the first incorporated town.
A. J. Brock was the first mayor in the county.
The *O'Brien Pioneer* was the first newspaper published in the county.
B. F. McCormack was the first editor.
Luther E. Head was the first physician.
The brothers, Benjamin and Charles Epperson, the first African home-
steaders.

THE FIRST RECORD ENTRIES.

The first records are exceedingly meager and brief. It is almost impossible to determine with certainty the beginnings and endings of terms of officials. In many cases the first record that a certain official has been in office is not of his election, but of some duty performed. The rest must be supplied from memories. We will give first the leading record entries, in most cases the identical words of the record. The record of organization has already been given:

October 20, 1860, J. W. Bosler took the contract to build court house for recorder and treasurer (and the odd provision) "not to be over eighteen feet square."

A temporary office was built for Archibald Murray, county judge, and his bill allowed for same. This was the old log court house.

November 5, 1860, the first county safe was purchased of Bosler & Hedges for treasurer's office.

H. C. Tiffey built an office in November, 1860, for the district clerk in connection with the office built by A. Murray for recorder and treasurer.

On December 11, 1860, H. H. Waterman resigned as treasurer and recorder.

John H. Cofer was the first chairman of the board of supervisors.

James W. Bosler followed Waterman as treasurer and recorder.

On January 1, 1861, Amos S. Collins assessed the whole of Waterman township, being then all the county, and was the first assessor.

On January 1, 1861, H. C. Tiffey's bond as clerk of the board was approved.

On June 3, 1861, the first levy was made to build the first school house in the county.

In September, 1860, John S. Jenkins made a map of the county, he being the first surveyor.

The records show that James W. Bosler was the first attorney in the county. The county was detached from Woodbury, and C. E. Hedges made copies of the Woodbury records, or so much thereof as pertained to O'Brien county.

Archibald Murray built both the old log court house and the "not over eighteen foot square" court house.

The first tax list was published by Zebeck & Frieny.

John H. Cofer was made chairman of the board of supervisors for 1862, and also was county judge for the term commencing January 1, 1862.

On June 1, 1862, John S. Jenkins resigned as county superintendent and George Hoffman was appointed.

On June 1, 1862, James R. M. Cofer was appointed treasurer and recorder.

On June 1, 1862, George Hoffman was appointed sheriff in place of A. Murray. There is no record of how or when Murray got into the office.

On January 1, 1863, Moses Lewis and Daniel Clark were sworn in as supervisors and H. C. Tiffey as district clerk.

On March 2, 1863, James R. M. Cofer resigned as treasurer and recorder and David Carroll was appointed.

On March 2, 1863, John H. Cofer resigned as judge and John L. McFarland was appointed.

In March, 1864, H. C. Tiffey was clerk of the board of supervisors.

On June 2, 1864, David Carroll resigned as treasurer and recorder and John L. McFarland was appointed.

On September 5, 1864, Moses Lewis dug a well for the court house.

On September 2, 1861, the county bought the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 36, in township 94, range 39 (Old O'Brien), for county purposes.

On March 29, 1861, Judge A. W. Hubbard appointed Samuel Parkhurst, of Cherokee county, Edward Smeltzer, of Clay county, and James Gleason, of Buena Vista county, commissioners to locate the county seat of O'Brien county, and on August 28, 1861, the first two commissioners did so locate same on the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 36, township 94 north, of range 39, being Old O'Brien town, bought of H. C. Tiffey.

HISTORY OF ABOVE OLD RECORDS.

The above entries, with others of lesser importance, were kept by H. C. Tiffey in his neat handwriting on about twenty-four pages of large foolscap paper, clinched together with fasteners, but unbound.

This original document was brought up to Pringhar in a box of refuse papers found in the office of the clerk of records. It was finally dug out by Warren Walker and Judge A. H. Willits, who was then clerk of courts, and discovered to be the original record of organization and was retained by him until 1880, when it was decided that the auditor's office was the proper place for it. Accordingly, J. L. E. Peck, then auditor of the county, fastened it with fasteners in the front part of Supervisors' Record No. 1. Still later the same auditor recorded the same in full in Supervisors' Record No. 3 by resolution of the board of supervisors, that it might be preserved without question, and certified to its genuineness.

The following are some of the additional record entries up to 1869 and 1870, when the first real settlements were made, and the time when, in justice, the county first deserved to be organized:

On January 2, 1865, Moses Lewis was made chairman, A. Murray was sworn in as treasurer and recorder, Moses Lewis as county judge and H. C. Tiffey as district clerk.

In the latter part of 1865 the record shows that John Moore was county judge and on January 1, 1866, he resigned that office and became district clerk in place of H. C. Tiffey, who resigned that day.

On September 2, 1867, R. B. Crego was appointed supervisor.

In 1867 Moses Lewis was chairman and D. W. Inman and R. B. Crego members.

On June 6, 1868, D. W. Inman was chairman and R. B. Crego a member. During this time Chauncey Chesley was sheriff; A. Murray, county judge; Chester W. Inman, treasurer, and John Moore, clerk of the courts.

On November 28, 1868, the county offices were repaired for school in that winter. This same month John Moore resigned as district clerk and A. Murray was appointed in his place.

On January 1, 1869, D. W. Inman was chairman and R. B. Crego and William H. Baker members. On March 13, 1869, Joseph S. Stratton was appointed district clerk. On September 6, 1869, the court house was ordered to be moved to the center of the court house square. On September 24, 1869, D. W. Inman resigned as chairman and William H. Baker was elected in his place.

On January 1, 1870, the new officers qualified: John W. Kelly, chairman, and H. H. Waterman and Obediah Higbee, members; Samuel Hubbard, sheriff; R. B. Crego, treasurer, and John R. Pumphrey, deputy treasurer; Archibald Murray, as county auditor, and J. F. Schofield, as surveyor. It will be observed that at this date, under the then new law, the office of county auditor was created and some of the duties exercised by the county judge passed to the district court and the office of county judge abolished.

On January 25, 1870, John H. Schofield resigned as county superintendent and Stephen Harris was appointed.

In 1870 a new court house was built by J. G. Parker and on July 20, 1870, it was accepted.

A ferry boat was ordered built March 22, 1870, to cross the Little Sioux, under county supervision, near H. H. Waterman's residence.

On October 24, 1870, Samuel B. Hurlburt resigned as sheriff, and George McOmber was appointed. On January 1, 1871, B. F. McCormack was chairman and C. W. Inman and T. J. Fields, members; McAllen Green, recorder; Stephen Harris, clerk of courts, and John R. Pumphrey, deputy.

On February 25, 1871, the treasurer's office was declared vacant, and the sheriff ordered to take possession of the office. John R. Pumphrey was appointed to fill the vacancy. A suit was ordered against Rouse B. Crego, treasurer, in May term, 1871, and bond of Pumphrey accepted February 27th, and the office delivered over to him on that day. On March 14, 1871, R. B. Crego was ordered to appear before the board to make settlement.

THE OLD COUNTY DEBT.

We have already referred to the old county debt. Indeed the question loomed up in the very manner of the county's organization. The mere statement that it was organized with seven votes carried with it a sinister motive. Inasmuch as this matter troubled our people seriously for forty years, we cannot drop the subject without detailing how our people disposed of its various vexed questions. Let us keep in mind the fact, however, that in the end O'Brien county paid it out in full. They left no questions of credit on the county.

But O'Brien county has not been alone in having dark spots in her earlier periods. She now has her prosperities, but has passed through her adversities. In this, our prosperous period, when we need a public building, we find surplus funds ample to build it without even an issue of bonds or special levy being necessary. As for instance, in this year of 1913 the

county is building a home for the poor and unfortunate, costing twenty-five thousand dollars, with the full amount on hand in the treasury, without even a levy necessary. When we see this done so easily, we, in looking backward, may wonder how such a debt was created. But as portions of that debt of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars were even handed down to as late as the year 1908, when the last bond was paid, and as the people passed through many phases of argument during all these years, we will give the matter notice. Our debt was often exaggerated to several times the above amount. But when we realize that this large debt from 1860 to 1881 bore ten per cent., and that from 1881 to 1886 it bore seven per cent., and that from 1886 at five per cent. interest, and still later only four and one-half per cent., the county deserves no extended slams and need ask for no pity, for such was its vitality, even in those years, to so soon rally as to recommend itself to eastern financiers at four and one-half per cent., which proves the rockbottom value of the county. It was almost as good as a national bond. The county paid thirty thousand dollars on it in 1880 and about ten thousand dollars and more at times each year thereafter.

Macaulay, the historian, claimed and proved that the public debt of England was a public blessing. In one sense this has been probably true in O'Brien county. It has caused a vigilance and watchfulness on the part of public officials as to expenses and kept the need of economy prominently before the people. We have already made note of several causes. The county was organized before it had self government. It was born too soon. Its general elections in 1861 and 1862 only had seventeen and nineteen votes. A set of men from abroad, who did not in fact become its permanent citizens and had no such intentions, did the organizing. The real citizens, so few in number, were busy opening up their farms and were outvoted.

THE AFTERMATH AND THE COUNTY TREASURY.

It was not merely the money debt to be paid that this Bosler-Cofer organization handed down to our people. It handed down its attendant dregs. The fact that for nineteen years, from 1860 to 1879, county warrants sold on the market, both inside the county as well as to the speculator, at twenty-five to forty cents on the dollar, caused bad results in many ways. Of necessity it could not be healthy that its citizenship for so long speculated off of itself, so to speak. Discounting its own revenues made a bad atmosphere. It could not be gotten rid of at once. Its citizens could not get away from its conditions. These bad situations reached not only into county

matters, but to its townships and school districts, and entered into individual business disasters. They all got likewise in debt and tangled and intertwined in many ways. Defalcations were numerous both in county and townships, as well as school treasurers.

One actual occurrence will be cited as a sample. One school treasurer became short one thousand one hundred and two dollars. It is one of the duties of that office to make an annual report to the county superintendent, and that official a like report of the whole county school finances to the state authorities. The school treasurer's report plainly showed a shortage. The report was referred back. The school treasurer could not make it good. The bondsmen did not want to make it up. They were called in. A committee was appointed to examine same. This committee was friendly to the bondsmen. This committee finally hit on the scheme of making a report, and giving the school treasurer credit for the sum short by this simple entry, "By error, \$1,102." As any one can see, that did not put up the money. It went through, however, but that school treasurer is still short that amount of money. "By error" would not make good, when there was no error. He had simply spent the money. A member of that committee in later years was asked in presence of the writer how under the sun he could ever make that report. He replied that they had to make it "add up," and the bondsmen couldn't afford to pay it. This is cited to show the then environments. Both county, township and school affairs were chaotic, no real settlements, and the records indefinite and all too brief. We have shown that the whole record before the board of supervisors from 1860 to 1865 was, in fact, kept on twenty-four pages of foolscap paper, and yet so much bad work was done.

For many of those years Clark Green's store was the only store in the county, and Pumphrey's the only bank. The pitiful appeals of the "grass-hoppered" homesteaders for credit and groceries and clothing became too strong. It took thousands of dollars to carry such a situation. Clark Green was too honest and too generous and had too much heart to withstand such appeals. He, in fact, dished out his groceries and merchandise right and left. These matters all connected themselves too closely with the public funds, the store, Pumphrey's bank and the county funds. Both Pumphrey's bank, the store and the county officials were all pressed to the limit for loans and favors. Clark Green and his store broke up in 1879 and he made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. He and John R. Pumphrey had for years been in partnership. Four years later John R. Pumphrey himself, with his store there, went to the wall at Sanborn. The writer once heard a

substantial farmer from Grant township get it off in the court house thus: "These public funds are curious things. Part of the time John Pumphrey has them, part of the time B. F. McCormack has them, part of the time the store has them, and part of the time they are in the county treasury."

In fact, John Pumphrey's bank, the only one in the county up to 1874, was nothing more than a clearing house for the speculations on county warrants and bonds and school warrants. There was no well defined code of honor between public funds and private ownership. Its citizenship became too much imbued with the idea that they were all entitled to a share. There was no bank capital. The public funds simply were moved through the bank. The funds were loaned to individuals and a profit made. The common pasturage idea engrafted onto things by the Bosler-Cofer outfit did not soon lose its force. Indeed, the further fact existed that at no time in the whole of Mr. Pumphrey's banking career, from 1869 to 1881, could he ever have made fully good the public funds. It probably was not wholly his fault. The Boslers and Cofers were doing the dictation work. He followed suit. In fact, there was never a time when he was worth a single net dollar and in later years could not have paid to exceed fifty cents on the dollar had it all been called at any one time. Each new lot of money coming into the treasury simply filled the place of that which had just been paid out. No wonder public officials had their troubles. The very bank itself through which the public funds were moving was in an utterly chaotic condition. When once thus reduced in credit, the county warrants to twenty-five cents on the dollar, even good first-class financial management would have had a hard struggle, as it in fact did even as late as 1879, when the county and its board of supervisors succeeded in placing the county on a cash basis, as will be shown elsewhere. Thus, for example, to buy legitimately a record book, needed as a necessity for the county and worth but ten dollars, required a county warrant to be issued for forty dollars. Speculation in warrants became much of a business, very much so by capitalists from Des Moines and Sioux City and other places in the East, who saw the final good qualities of the county and that it ultimately would cash out, just as the county has in fact been doing and have now finished up since 1879. Even the later legitimate citizens were almost compelled to participate in the handling and speculation on these warrants and indebtedness. While at the present stage of the county's prosperity this would not be justifiable, yet in these years it could not be escaped from. These speculators of necessity had to allow real citizens to hold the offices, but it took a long time to get the con-

trol or majority. These honest citizens could not in the first years have retrieved the situation and those sharpers held on as long as they could.

During the excited discussions of the years from 1875 to 1881 over these debt questions, much censure has been heaped upon the heads of many real citizens and sundry of the officers who assumed the duties of officials. More or less was deserved, yet the impartial critic must mitigate to quite an extent these censures on many of those officials. The real citizens and officials made but a small part of the money. The big money was fleeced out in the first five years, during the Bosler-Cofer ascendancy. Much of the big speculation was made by such people as Weare & Allison, of Sioux City; Polk & Hubbell, of Des Moines, and a Mr. Miller, of Ann Arbor, Michigan. The writer saw this man Miller several times when he was here in his efforts to clinch the bonds and judgments he held. He was a small-sized man, a determined fighter and business all over. He had laid out forty acres right in the heart of Ann Arbor and would never let it be lotted up, but held it as a fine residence property. He made much of this money out of the sundry new counties in this section of country.

PESTIFEROUS JOHN S. JENKINS.

It is hard to distinguish among the early angels between James W. Bosler, John H. Cofer, Henry C. Tiffey, Charles C. Smeltzer, I. C. Furber, Archibald Murray or John S. Jenkins. The latter first surveyed the roads, at least on paper, and had bills practically as follows for surveying:

Road from county seat, "O'Brien to Plymouth county line"-----	\$200.00
Road from "county seat in direction of Spirit Lake"-----	200.00
Road from "county seat in direction of Spirit Lake (second division)"-----	200.00
Road from "county seat in direction of Cherokee"-----	200.00
Road from "county seat to Clay county"-----	200.00

Then he followed this all up very industriously with five charges of \$2,000 each for bridges on each of these roads. D. A. W. Perkins, in his history, gives it as four items of \$2,000 each, but, on reading it closely, it is in fact five, because he divided the roads in the direction of Spirit Lake first in bridges Numbers 2, 3, 4 and 5, at \$2,000, and then a second whack of bridges Numbers 6, 7, 8 and 9 on road to Spirit Lake, at \$2,000; then followed with bridges Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 to Cherokee, with another \$2,000, and likewise to Plymouth. Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4, with \$2,000; then Numbers 6, 7, 8 and 9, \$2,000, making in all five whacks, or ten thousand dollars.

Then he modestly puts in a bill of only two hundred dollars for making the county map of same. This same pestiferous individual appears among the swamp land deals and deeds with Bosler and Cofer. They were all indeed Swamp Angels to O'Brien county. Even in later years Chester Inman is allowed six thousand dollars for one single bridge.

TWO CURIOUS SWAMP LAND CONTRACTS AS LATE AS 1872.

As illustrating how slow the county was in recovering from even the spirit of the bad work of earlier years, we mention the quite elaborate contract entered into January 8, 1872, between B. F. McCormack and C. W. Inman, then sole members on the board and an attorney, whereby the board agreed to give him five thousand dollars in warrants paid in advance, and twenty per cent. of all collections or results from all swamp lands secured to the county, and to include all scrip that the county might be otherwise entitled to in lieu of lands. The curious thing about it was that the five thousand dollars was the only result so far as is known. Another curious item was that the auditor, in issuing same, made it in ten five hundred dollar warrants, which smacked of the prevalent custom of the boys dividing up on the square with one another. And this was all done after Bosler, Cofer & Company were gone. It has been thought by some that this attorney in fact took that contract to Washington and collected some scrip that the county was entitled to where it got no real swamp lands, as it never did. But, at all events, it was all outlay so far as the county was concerned.

But this was not the whole of this little chapter about this single item on swamp lands. On September 5th of the same year, 1872, the county, by its board, made another very serious contract—indeed, it is quite lengthy—with one T. J. Ross, president of the Iowa & Dakota Railroad, whereby O'Brien county should sell and transfer to said company all lands it might receive of swamp lands in the future, including scrip to which it might be entitled, one-half at once when grading was done or started and the balance later. It can thus be seen that it was not intended that the county should receive much returns from swamp lands. And this, too, as late as 1872.

THE IRON BRIDGE AT WATERMAN FORD, ON THE LITTLE SIOUX.

This iron bridge was another specimen of how to farm a good thing when it can be done. The board had expended considerable sums in a ferry on the Little Sioux. Later on they let a contract for a wooden bridge, at

quite a large cost. The bridge was partly under way, with the lumber on the ground and the main heavy frames up, when a tremendous freshet in the spring swept it all away. It had been so arranged, however, that the full price of this structure was paid, notwithstanding the thing was not completed. Then the iron bridge was undertaken. It was curious that it was let in sections. The one big span in center, with piers, was called an improved patent tubular arch bridge, eighty-one feet long, at a cost of four thousand dollars, to be completed December 15, 1872, and to be able to sustain two thousand pounds to the lineal foot. On the same day a contract was let to Charles Foster, of Cherokee, to build five sections or approaches, each sixteen feet in length, or eighty feet of approaches, at a cost of one thousand dollars. Later still "additional approaches" were added, until the total length was one hundred and ninety-three feet. Still later, ice breakers and sundry items of all kinds were needed. It was often alleged in later years that this iron bridge cost the county in grand total up to the date it washed out, in 1897, the total of about fifteen thousand dollars. It was claimed that they kept up this iron bridge improvement to keep out of sight other bad work.

OTHER CURIOUS EXPENSES EVEN UP TO 1872.

It was unfortunately the law that a county could be sued in any county in the state in the state courts. The county was annoyed exceedingly by these small suits, which were apparently brought to wear out the county and at the same time get them into judgment and then, if the county put up a fight, simply withdraw and later bring suit somewhere else. The county did make some efforts in the direction, but in the end was worsted. For instance, on November 11, 1872, the county was sued down in Waterloo, Black Hawk county, on some old warrants numbered from 209 to 231, which can be seen were among the very first warrants issued, and to Henry C. Tiffey, John Moore and William Paine. The suit was in name of Alonzo Rollins, for eight thousand eight hundred and thirty dollars. Several attorneys were employed at different times as vexatious continuances were had. It cost the county auditor one hundred and fifty dollars, in warrants, to get down and back. As a round up, this one suit cost three items of attorney's fees, one for six hundred dollars, one for one thousand five hundred dollars, and a third for two thousand eight hundred dollars, and judgment was rendered and the county beaten besides. This was not very encouraging in defeating debts. Allegations were made that attorneys for the county and the holders

of the warrants were in partnership in these deals, but of that no one will ever know. It was not until 1878 that the citizens really got up "on their ear" and determined to get both sides of these impudent expenses stopped.

SWAMP LAND SWINDLE.

It was not alone on fraudulent county warrants issued for unnecessary bridges, that the Bosler-Cofer-Carey crowd taxed their ingenuity. They exploited various fields. The swamp land graft was one of those slippery schemes adopted. As a matter of fact, O'Brien county had only about two hundred and forty acres of actual swamp land. It is also true that swamp land must first be duly surveyed by the United States as such, and appraised, and duly certified to be swamp lands before a county can claim a title. The swamp lands have been held for use of the counties in which located. But this fact did not deter the frisky and unscrupulous Bosler crowd. This same James W. Bosler, who gained quite a national reputation with Senator Dorsey in the "Star Route frauds," conceived the idea that he must have swamp lands in O'Brien county, whether certified or not. He could rely on the gullibility of the unwary, who would not know those facts, to gather in his dupes. He selected those lands that would seem to come the nearest to the swamp land idea, fifty thousand acres. He then entered into a very elaborate contract with the board of supervisors of O'Brien county, which board was none other than a part of the same crowd (in other transactions he himself was a member of the board and Cofer the contractor) and controlled by him, in reality making a contract with himself, wherein he agreed to build a small bridge, and in consideration therefor the county of O'Brien, in its sovereign and official capacity, with the seal of the county attached, should deed to him this fifty thousand acres of land. He then, to constitute himself a gentleman, in a gentleman's contract, deeded part of this land to John H. Cofer and part to Joseph Carey, and other tracts to the others of this sacred few, and the land was thus deeded to and fro. Then an abstract of title was made up, all red inked in impressive style. This would show these several deeds on the tracts, in eighths or quarters, as they desired to sell them. The title would, at least *prima facie*, appear to come from a responsible source. These abstracts of title were then taken to show to the Eastern dupes, and sold all over the country as full-grown titled land. The deed, with a seal of the county thereon, gave it prestige. These duped people recorded their deeds. Of course, later on the United States in regular course issued its patents to the rightful homesteader, or rightful purchaser

from the United States. These Bosler-Cofer-Carey deeds have continued to this day on all these lands to hamper real owners in trying to sell or to make loans thereon. However, the Eastern loan companies now generally understand it and pay no attention to them. Unfortunately, however, these bogus deeds appear on every genuine abstract of title on lands named. Not one of the bogus title owners ever came into court to actually claim title or ever took possession. The fraud was too patent as soon as it was looked up by parties. But this was not the whole of the graft. These same gentry, Bosler, Cofer & Company, continued so long in control of the records and received payments for taxes, that they would receive the tax money from both the bogus title man and the honest title man and enter one on the records and pocket the money from the other. Such things and doings, however, have often placed our county in a false light and such matters have also been often exaggerated.

CHAPTER III.

THE EARLY SETTLERS.

Our people, happily, were either Americans, or belonged to those desirable classes of foreigners who readily amalgamated with and forthwith became Americans. Happily, indeed, that we have had no foreign population which has become clannish to any such extent that feuds are created or friction caused. The very fact that for ten years last past the district court of the county has only averaged two to three jury trials per term of court proves this.

The government having passed the homestead law just about the time of the organization of the county, naturally, in its earliest years, brought a class of people seeking free lands. Embodied in that homestead law has been the idea that first possession gave right, or first title, which soon developed the "squatter" as a part and portion of homesteading and induced people to come who were seeking land on the government domain. The old soldier was given sundry special privileges and rights peculiar to the idea of a pension or recognition of his services as applied to government lands. As a consequence of this, some five hundred and seventy-five old soldiers have settled in the county during the years. Later the word "squatter" was more distinctly applied to those taking possession of the overlapping or railroad lands, as will be seen under that head. However, the words or phrases, homesteader, old soldier, squatter, settler and hay twister, became to a large extent intermingled terms, applied somewhat promiscuously. In thus writing these early historic items we are unable to draw boundary lines, and in many cases apply them as the early settlers used them in common parlance. The term, "squatter," as understood in O'Brien county, does not mean or have the meaning of a squatter as might be applied to a party squatting down on some sand bar in the Missouri river, not caring whether it ever belonged to the government or not or even whether he ever got title or not. The squatter in O'Brien county developed into a full-grown homesteader and won out, becoming a permanent citizen of the county, contesting for his rights for title and home, alongside the settler and soldier, contending that

of right he should become the owner of the lands the railroads had failed to earn, and won out in the highest tribunal in the land, the supreme court of the United States. In these capacities we shall deal with these several classes of early settlers.

WHERE OUR PEOPLE CAME FROM.

O'Brien county's people came from everywhere. While this is true, it is probably also true that well nigh two-thirds of its people, or their parents, have at some time lived in some other county in Iowa. Iowa, being universally agricultural, the idea of agriculture, even in emigration, moves on farming lines. Its old homesteaders were, many of them, old soldiers in the Civil War. The fact that soldiers were given certain privileges brought them here. These, as a rule, were Americans, but, though largely from Iowa, came at least from one or other of the states. At least they came from no one locality. According to George W. Schee's Book of Army Records, there were about five hundred and seventy-five old soldiers who have at one time or another lived in the county. This would represent about that many families, and would mean that from two thousand to twenty-five hundred soldiers or soldiers' children or grandchildren reside in the county, making due allowance for removals. Decoration Day celebrations and old soldiers' reunions have therefore been a distinctive feature of the public days.

The coming of or building of the Northwestern railroad in 1881 produced a very pronounced result—in fact, the most noticeable in the county—in starting out and heading for O'Brien county one definite division or nationality, the thrifty Germans. The road naturally brought them in from the many German sections in and around Gladbrook, Davenport, Reinbeck, Dubuque and other Iowa places. They represent probably about two-fifths of the total population of the county. While many Germans in the county originally came from Germany itself, and many directly to O'Brien county, the larger portion came from those large German communities named. Caledonia township may be said to be solidly German. For a period of thirty years that township has not averaged more than three votes per year of other nationalities. While there are Germans in every township, yet they will be found in the largest numbers in Caledonia, Union, Liberty, Dale, Highland, Center, Omega and Hartley. In land sale parlance, it is often remarked that whenever a German or Hollander purchases a farm it adds five and ten dollars per acre to the value forthwith.

A few from among the older families came direct from England. At

the time that D. Edward Paullin platted Paullina and established and founded its name, it was thought that a large English colony would be established by himself and the Close brothers, who colonized several large English communities in Plymouth and Osceola counties. But those gentlemen finally expended their energies elsewhere, and the large English colony failed to materialize in O'Brien county. The English in the county may be said to consist of single families here and there. The families of John Archer, Thomas Holmes, Thomas Hayes and others in and around Archer would come the nearest to being a definite English colony, with several others in the county of a few families in a community.

Prior to 1880 the Scottish-American Land Company and the Jackson Land Company opened up land offices in Emmetsburg, Palo Alto county, in which county was planted a large Scotch colony and where these two companies held large tracts of land. These companies were organized by William J. Menzies, of Scotland, and Alexander Peddie, a Scotchman, and the manager in this section of the country. These two companies owned several thousand acres of land in and around Paullina, in Union and in Dale townships. This colony of Scotch people came from Roxborough and Selkirk counties, in the south of Scotland. William Aitken first came in the year 1880. It was his son, Thomas Aitken, who, in later years, was cut and mangled to his death by a runaway team with a reaper. Mr. Aitken was followed, in 1881, by William Cowan, William Redford, Alexander Scott, James M. Christy, Thomas Scott, Hector Cowan, Sr., and James Gifford and their families, all of whom bought large tracts of this Scottish-American Land Company land. These families now reach down into the third and fourth generations, many of them well known in the later years. However, as a Scotch colony, its people have so scattered and removed to the towns that as a colony it is all but disintegrated, but during the years 1880 to 1900 it was one of the most formidable colonies in the county. One of their number, Miss Belle Cowan, was county superintendent for the years 1889-1890, and was also a teacher in the high schools of both Pringhar and Paullina.

The Irish settled in largest numbers in and around Sheldon. They were mainly homesteaders, and the foundation families were those of William Gavin, Thomas Burns, Michael Burns, Timothy Donahue (at one time member of the lower house of the Iowa Legislature from O'Brien county), John Dougherty, John McGrath, Pat Kennedy, Pat Kelly, Timothy Donoghue, Pat Carroll (after whom Carroll township was named), John Hart, John R. Deacon, Joseph Berry, Dan McKay and Pat Sullivan. The de-

scendants of this colony of Irish have maintained their residences down through the generations.

Next to the Germans in numbers in this county, the Hollanders, in fixed communities, have the most definitely established themselves. The Hollanders coming direct to O'Brien county are mainly from Sioux county, where they constitute the large majority. The Hollanders in O'Brien county have been characterized by thrift in the purchase of more land for themselves and their sons. The Sioux county Hollanders came mainly from Pella, Iowa, where is one of the largest of the original Holland settlements direct from the Zuyder Zee. The same persistence that pushed back the waters of the sea and made more land in Holland has resulted in success in the Sioux county Hollanders pushing over into O'Brien, and, by the larger price he is willing to pay, he, by cash argument, invites the other owner out. He never loses or lets go a farm once purchased. It is no doubt true that both the German and Hollander have a higher idea of land value than any other class. Their views of things are solid as the earth. Land to them means, as it in fact is, that, with its use, it reaches down to the center of the earth and the air above it, clear to the sky. So definite is the Hollander in his fixedness in the county, that Holland churches are to be found in Sheldon, Sanborn and Hartley. The Hollanders will perhaps number a full tenth or more in the county. The same may be said of the German all over the county. He keeps his own land and buys out his neighbor. These people will be noticed under several other heads.

The Scandinavians have many small settlements, but are more scattered than the Germans or Hollanders. The most noted definite colony perhaps is the Scandinavian Quaker settlement in South Dale and Highland, where they support a Quaker church and school, and hold services Wednesday as well as Sunday. Among the foundation families of this colony are those of Lorenzo Rockwell, Curtis L. Rockwell (for many years a member of the board of supervisors), Loui Rockwell, Archibald Henderson, Christian Thompson, Roy Rockwell, D. J. Peckham, Joseph Henderson, Oman Tow, James Mott, O. P. Tjossem, A. R. Rockwell and Sam Norland.

HOW THE EARLY SETTLERS LIVED, WHAT THEY DID AND HOW THEY DID IT.

Future generations will inquire, as indeed will the present reader, not only how the country appeared before the hand of civilized man had marred its virgin beauty, but how the first comers managed to live, to procure the means of subsistence, how they met the varied requirements of civilization

to which they had been accustomed, and with what resignation they dispensed with such as could not be had.

If correctly told, it would be a tale of intense interest; but it would require a master hand to draw a picture that would show the scene in all its details—personal experience alone could unfold the tale. When a newcomer arrived he first selected a location where he could make his future home, and the question arises, of whom did he get permission to occupy it? The answer might be given in the language usually used in defining political or civil rights—every one was free to do as he pleased so he did not interfere with his neighbor. When the government had extinguished the Indian title the land was subject to settlement either before or after the government had surveyed it. The settler had no deed or paper title to start with, but simply the right of possession, which he got by moving onto and occupying it; this gave him a right to hold it against all others till some one came with a better title, which better title could only be obtained by purchasing the fee of the government when surveyed and brought into market. The right of possession thus obtained constituted what was called a "claim." These were regarded as valid titles by the settlers, and were often sold for quite a sum. This was a little dangerous, however, as the federal law was that the government would not recognize a sale. In fact it left the homesteader open to having his rights contested, as the law in reality intended and the affidavits he had to make said that it was bona fide and for his own express benefit. They did it by signing what was called a "Relinquishment" to the United States. This the government recognized. But we can see that when once filed, the first man who next filed got it, and if the purchaser was not immediately on the spot he was left out in the cold and lost his money. These sales would usually run from about two hundred and fifty dollars to as high as seven hundred dollars for good improvements. Pre-emption laws were also on the statute books as passed by Congress, giving to claimants who had conformed to certain specified improvements the exclusive right to purchase the land at the government price. Beside certain buildings and improvements they were required to plant and keep in thrifty condition about fourteen acres of trees, which accounts for some of the larger groves on some of the farms.

When the settler had selected his location or made his claim, his first attention was directed to procuring a shelter for his family. So anxious were the people for settlers that often in the first years two and even three families were known to actually live in and occupy a settler's cabin twelve by sixteen in size, more or less. But if he located far from a neighbor, for

the first year many occupied the covered wagon in which they came to the country, sleeping in or under it, and cooking or eating in the open air or in some rude contrivance, perhaps covered with prairie grass, or a tent made of the bed blankets he had brought with him, if the family was too large or a shelter could be provided. This was usually, when finished, a dug-out or sod shanty. One little incident known to the writer was a settler who sent his boy to a neighbor two miles away before breakfast to inform him of the latest news that they were to have a new neighbor who had just located six miles away. Far-away neighbors were then near neighbors.

The prairie region offered advantages far superior to a timbered country; in the latter an immense amount of labor had to be done to remove the timber and for years afterward the stumps prevented free cultivation, while on the prairie the sod only had to be turned and the crop put in. Still, this sod had to go through the process of rotting or being subdued, which often took several years, especially when broken up too late in the summer. It was a curious fact even in O'Brien county, however, that the very earliest settlers huddled close in around the little fringes of timber on the Waterman and Little Sioux, the rougher land of the county.

The homesteaders would combine with their oxen and often make up a team of several, even five and six yoke, and turn up a big, wide furrow two feet or more in width. The broad, black furrow thus turned up was a sight worth seeing. The nice adjustment of the coulter and broad share required a practiced hand, and the tip of the share or even the wrong filing of the coulter would throw the plow on the twist and require a strong man in a tough sod to hold the plow in place, but if nicely done the plow would run a long distance without support. A good blacksmith then had a good job. Many of these first plows were clumsy and found too large, and later it was found that a smaller plow and even fewer animals did better work. It was found that the best time to break the sod was when the grass was rapidly growing, and it would decay quickly and the soil be mellow and kind; but if broken too late in the season it would require two or three years to become as mellow as it would be in three months when broken at the right time. It was found often that shallower breaking required less teams, and would often mellow up sooner than the deeper breaking. But many of the settlers arrived late in the season and had to break whenever they could, even late in the fall, and do with it as best they could.

The first sod crop was mostly corn, planted by cutting a gash into the inverted sod, dropping the corn and closing it by another blow alongside the first, or perhaps planting into the lucky mellow soil thrown up by a gopher.

Or sometimes it was dropped in every third furrow and the next furrow turned on. If the corn was so dropped as to find the space between the furrows it would find daylight; if not, it was doubtful. This sod corn crop would be laughed at now as a crop, but the early settler had to make the most of it. At least corn so planted would make a partial crop, sometimes, when favorable all the season, quite a full crop. Prairie sod thus turned in June would be in condition to put in to oats or corn the spring following. Melons and vines seemed to do even better on these tough sods than later in the years. This subduing of this tough sod with deep roots was a problem with which the later farmers are not familiar. We can thus see some of the reasons why it was early discussed whether this would ever be a corn country or not. But after the first crops the soil got better and better. But while his crops were growing, the settler was not freed from other cares and worry. His few chickens and pigs had to be sheltered and housed at night as a protection against owls and prairie wolves. Even his cattle had to have a good corral, as even the calves or younger cattle were not safe against a hungry wolf. The problem of getting the cattle home at night was a serious one, as, with such free, wide range, cattle would often roam five and ten miles, and nearly always had to be searched for, at least every few days, and every day receive attention as a regular item. As there were then no trees, this question of shelter was serious in view of the blasts of winter. The primitive shack sheds, with grass tops and illy constructed sides, did the protective act badly. The grimly humorous remark or question of sundry of the Easterners who would visit this county in those years, "Why don't you have barns and houses and other conveniences like we do in the East?" certainly would arouse mirth. He should have been answered, "You are enjoying the fruits of the labor of several generations of your ancestors, while we have to create all we have. We have necessarily made rude and cheap shelters for ourselves and our animals, have fenced our farms, dug our wells, have to make our roads, bridge our streams, build our school houses, churches, court houses and jails, and when one improvement is complete another want stares us in the face." All this taxed the energies of the new settler to the extent of human endurance, and many fell by the way, unable to meet the demands upon their energies. The only wonder is that so much has been accomplished; that so many comforts and conveniences have crowned our efforts; that we have reached a point for which a century of effort might have been allowed. Political and financial theorists have tauntingly told the farmers of Iowa that they knew nothing of finance, except what wiser heads have told them; that they have made nothing by farming,

and would be poor except for the advance in the price of their farms. These sages should be told that the toil of those farmers has made the farms increase in prices; made those improvements, planted orchards and fruit gardens, made roads and bridges, converted a wild country into a land of beauty, and made it the happy abode of intelligent men. All this had to be done to make these farms advance in price, and those who have done this, and raised and educated their families, have done well; and if the advance in the price of their farms has given them a competence, it is what they anticipated, and nothing but the most persevering industry and frugality would have accomplished it.

In addition to the labor and a multitude of cares that beset the newcomer, he had it all to accomplish under disadvantages and in the face of dangers that of themselves were sufficient to discourage men not of stern resolve. Traveling unworked roads and crossing streams without bridges was often a perilous adventure. Crossing the wide prairie at night, with not even the stars to guide, was both uncertain and dangerous, and often the wayfarer traveled until exhausted and had to camp until the morning light should guide him on his way. In warm weather, although an unpleasant exposure, this was not a dangerous one; and, although the sensation of being lost is an irksome one and the lonely silence in the middle of the prairie, broken only by the howl of wolves, is more unpleasant than one inexperienced would imagine, with perhaps hunger added to the discomfort, yet all this would pass with the night and a brighter view and happier feelings would come with the dawn of the morning. But crossing the trackless prairie when covered with a dreary expanse of snow, with the fierce, unbroken wintry blast sweeping over its glistening surface, penetrating to the very marrow, was sometimes a fearful and dangerous experience. No condition could inspire a more perfect idea of lonely desolation, of entire discomfort, of helplessness, and of dismal forebodings, than to find one's self lost on the snow-covered prairie, with no object in sight in any direction but the cold undulating snow wreaths, and a dark and tempestuous winter night closing fast around his chilled and exhausted frame. His sagacious horse, by spasmodic efforts and continuous neighing, shows that, with his master, he appreciates the dangers and shares his fearful anticipations. With what longing the lost one reflects on the cozy fireside of his warm shanty, surrounded by his family, which he fears he may never see, and when the dark shadow of night is closed around and has shut in the landscape, and chance alone can bring relief, a joyous neigh and powerful spring from his noble horse calls his eye in the direction he has taken; he sees over the bleak

expanse a faint light in the distance, toward which his horse is bounding with accelerated speed, equally with his master cheered and exhilarated by the beacon light which the hand of affection has placed at the window to lead the lost one home. Nearly every early settler can remember such an experience, while some never found the home they sought, but, chilled to a painless slumber, they found the sleep that knows no waking. Crossing the uncultivated prairie on a cloudy night, or on a snowy or foggy day, was very liable to have an uncertain outcome. In a clear night the stars were a very reliable guide, and, like the Eastern Magi on the desert, the settlers came to have a close acquaintance with the constellations. A steady wind was also a very reliable guide; the traveler would get his bearing, then notice how the wind struck his horse, right or left ear, etc., and then keep that same direction, regardless of any other guide, and he would generally come out right. But if the wind changed, of course he went with it. Without these guides, it would be a mere accident if a person succeeded in a still atmosphere, on a cloudy night, or snowy or foggy day, in crossing a prairie of any extent. The yearly burning of the heavy annual growth of grass on the prairie, which had occurred from time immemorial, either from natural cause or from being set by human hands, was continued after the white settlers came in, and was a source of much annoyance, apprehension and, frequently, of severe loss. From the time the grass would burn, which was soon after the first frost, usually about the first of October, till the surrounding prairie was all burned over, or if not all burnt, till the green grass in the spring had grown sufficiently to prevent the rapid progress of the fire, the settlers were continually on the watch, and, as they usually expressed the idea, "sleeping with one eye open." When the ground was covered with snow, or during rainy weather, the apprehension was quieted and both eyes could be safely closed.

A statute law forbade setting the prairie on fire, and one doing so was subject to a penalty and liable to an action of trespass for the damages accruing. But men did not like to prosecute their neighbors and convictions were seldom effected, though fires were often set. Fires set to the leeward side of an improvement, while very dangerous to improvements to the leeward, were not so to the windward, as fire progressing against the wind is easily extinguished.

Imagine the feeling of the man who, alone in a strange land, after building a very modest homestead shanty or home; has raised his corn, wheat and oats, and fodder for stock, and has his premises surrounded by a sea of standing grass, dry as tinder, stretching away for miles in every

direction, over which the wild prairie wind howls a dismal requiem, and knowing that a spark or match applied in all that distance will send a sea of fire wherever the wind may waft it; and conscious of the fact that there are men who would embrace the first opportunity to send the fire from outside their own fields, regardless of whom it might consume, only so it protects their own. Various means was resorted to for protection. A common one was to plow several furrows around a strip several rods wide, outside the improvements, and then burn out the strip; or wait till the prairie was on fire and then set fire outside, reserving the strip for a late burn, that is, till the following summer, and in July burn both old grass and new.

But all this took time and labor, and the crowd of business on the hands of a new settler, of which a novice has no conception, would prevent him doing what would now seem a small matter; and all such efforts were often futile. A prairie fire, driven by a high wind, would often leap all barriers and seem to put human efforts at defiance. When a fire had passed through the prairie, leaving the long lines of side fires, like two armies facing each other, the sight at night was grand; if one's premises were securely protected, he could enjoy such a fine exhibition hugely, but if the property was exposed, the sublimity of the scene was lost in the apprehension of danger.

In the year 1881 a colony of French people settled in Grant township, with several scattering families in other townships. A few of them came direct from France, but in the main they came from in and around Clifton, Iroquois county, Illinois, a part of Illinois where many French settled long ago. The very name of that county in Illinois denotes French. Henry C. Colby had settled in Hartley several years prior in the land and banking business, and in fact was one of the most enterprising men in the county in inducing people to come to O'Brien county, and was a very successful man. It was Mr. Colby who induced these people to come to O'Brien and establish this colony, and sold many of them their lands. He was not a Frenchman himself, but his judgment as to the future of the county was accepted by them. The following families are among the number: Theodore Richard, Anton Guyett, Eli Frankers, Frankie Frankers, Samuel DeMars, Napoleon Renville, Calvin Mayhew, Louis Guyett, Edward Morrow, Fred Cota, Pearly Morrow, Albert Mayhew, Oliver Marcotte, Thomas Marcotte, Isaac DeTour and John DeTour and others. A few other families settled in Clay county, just across the line.

The following table gives the number of people, by nations, in O'Brien county where both parents are foreigners:

Austria -----	25	Ireland -----	256
French Canadians -----	8	Norway -----	220
Canadians -----	73	Russia -----	7
Denmark -----	35	Scotland -----	71
England -----	142	Sweden -----	141
France -----	4	Switzerland -----	10
Germany -----	2,419	Wales -----	18
Holland -----	452	Other foreigners -----	229

POPULATION OF THE COUNTY.

1860 -----	8	1885 -----	8,389
1863 -----	40	1890 -----	13,060
1865 -----	30	1895 -----	15,609
1870 -----	715	1900 -----	16,985
1875 -----	2,349	1905 -----	16,710
1880 -----	4,155	1910 -----	17,262

CHAPTER IV.

UPBUILDING.

TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

Inasmuch as this association as an organization lasted from 1877 until 1881, a full statement of its work in the county will be given.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATION.

The Constitution of the state of Iowa, in very plain language, says that any debt contracted by a county in excess of five per cent. on its valuation is absolutely void. The people in O'Brien county by this time (1877) were in quite large numbers, about two thousand seven hundred, and this, in fact, was about the time the county should have been organized. The people when once awakened became very indignant.

To the indignant and taxed voter this five per cent. limitation seemed clear and that the remedy must be sure. And truly it was a fit subject for public wrath. Many good citizens felt that there was no moral obligation to pay the unjust portion, and some legal decisions of high import seemed to indicate a fair prospect of defeating it, and its defeat was naturally agitated. The main discussion centered around section three of article eleven of the state Constitution, though lesser questions were incidental to it.

ORGANIZATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

A well organized Taxpayers' Association was the result. It grew rapidly and at one time included a good majority of the people of the whole county. The debt question was practically settled January 4, 1881, yet the association continued its activities until about 1890. While the writer did not coincide with this effort to defeat the debt, he has always recognized that this association did a good work in the county, in assisting in and insisting that the bad work commenced in 1860 should not continue. The writer, in 1879, was asked by the members of the Taxpayers' Association to run for county auditor

on that ticket. He, disagreeing with them on that subject, it placed him on the other side, and he was elected in 1879 to that office on the side of payment of the old debt. This organization was formed for the express purpose of defeating this old debt in whole or in part, to agitate inquiry into the matter, and to enlist, not only citizens, but nonresident land owners, to contribute in money, on the argument that if the debt were defeated taxes would be lessened. There is no doubt that the county would have been a unit on this question had there not been in the opinion of many still higher questions that they thought should control, namely:

1. The injury to the credit of the county and its later results on the county.
2. In the judgment of many, impracticable.
3. The still more serious question that the county had had its day in court, or res adjudicata, with due service of notice on the proper county officials, and this these sharpers, many of whom were good lawyers, had looked after. In other words, that the United States courts do not render serious judgments for nothing or as a pastime. By this time, 1877, about two-thirds of the whole debt had been thus rendered into judgment, and that portion that had not been put into judgment had been intermingled with the judgments and put into bonds, until it was, as was thought by many, impracticable to separate them.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN LIMBO.

One humorous event happened. On one large judgment rendered a mandamus was issued, commanding the board of supervisors to make a levy of taxes to pay it. They delayed and did not act. They (in 1875) were cited to appear before the United States court at Des Moines to show why they should not be punished for contempt of court. The board, by its chairman, asked by what authority their action or nonaction could be interfered with. Judge Love replied that "It was by the authority of the United States court, and that the United States court did not act trivially." In result, the court's writ said in plain English, to the board, to make the levy or go to jail, and so the court informed them. The board made the levy. Put into common language, the decisions of the courts held that this five per cent. limitation was a defense that the county could have made, but, failing to interpose when judgment was rendered, its day in court had been had and the county closed out.

This effort to defeat the debt (or Taxpayers' Association) was the outgrowth of a righteous indignation, and taxpayers' popular meetings were held all over the county. Attorneys were employed. The records were thoroughly searched, in which both sides of the question were discussed. It was discussed in school house lyceums. All citizens were bent on a full search to find out the situation. An injunction was issued in an equity suit in the district court of the county, entitled, "A. P. Powers and One Hundred and Ninety-nine Others, Plaintiffs vs. O'Brien County and its Officers, Defendants," to enjoin the payment of all bonds and judgments until the question of the validity of the bonds and indebtedness could be investigated.

TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION PICNIC.

It is not every picnic which could be dignified to a place as an historic item; even county wide. This was, however, one of the most important public gatherings ever held in the county. The writer attended. There were about four hundred people there, mainly from the eastern part. The meeting was serious. Grasshoppers had eaten everything up. It was held in July, 1878, on Waterman creek in Grant township. Taxes were high. Many were refusing to pay taxes, and had done so for four years. It was indeed a righteous wrath. The question was discussed quite a portion of the day, and very earnestly. The writer was then a very young man, and was somewhat loth to be too positive, though he had looked it up and came to the conclusion, for reasons stated above, that defeat of the debt was out of the question, as had also decided many others who were there. The writer was called upon, and stated that he did not come to interfere with the meeting, but had come to the aforesaid conclusion, and sat down without discussion. Later it was insisted that he go into the question. Colonel Hepburn was expected to speak. He had delivered the Fourth of July speech there that year, and, as a sentimental question, gave a very fervid opinion that it should be beaten. He later on looked it up and came to the same conclusion that it was not practical. Many took part, each speaking at length, Messrs. Schee, J. L. E. Peck and Harley Day in favor of payment and Messrs. Huse Woods, Ralph Dodge, Thomas Steele and others in favor of defeating it in the courts. It is too long to enter into the discussions of the day. One item will suffice to show the fervidness of the meeting. As stated, many had not paid taxes for several years. Mr. Steele jumped up and said, "that the farmers of O'Brien county would camp out on their farms, and would not pay a cent of taxes, and that they would hang to the

nearest wagon tongue the first county officer who would attempt to collect a cent of tax for the purpose." This expression came from an honest heart and was in essence a righteous condemnation of a great moral wrong that had been done. On moral lines and as applied to Bosler, Cofer & Company it was unanswerable. But the argument on the side of payment prevailed, namely, that, whether right or wrong, the county had been in court and judgments rendered; that they were closed out; that it was impracticable; that in the future judgment of O'Brien county and its future citizens that they would feel a higher sense of honor in having paid even an unjust debt, even a fraudulent debt, which it was, than to have a prolonged fight for years, and that the future people would be the better satisfied. At that meeting Mr. Steele's statement was cheered to the echo. Still the day's discussion drew the lines sharply throughout the county. The people began to see that there were two sides to the question, and articles were written in the papers, and discussed in many ways. Mr. Steele's statement voiced public indignation.

THE TWO SIDES.

The leaders and prime movers in this Taxpayers' Association were A. P. Powers, W. H. Woods ("Huse"), Thomas J. Steele and hundreds of others, and including E. Kindig, Ralph Dodge and Joseph Rowland, members of the board. On the other side were Thomas Holmes, Ezra M. Brady, Jacob Wolf and William Oliver, members of the board, and a solid delegation of the then county officials, George W. Schee, then county auditor, and J. L. E. Peck following him in the office, T. J. Alexander, treasurer, Hubert Sprague, recorder, Harley Day and David Alger, county superintendents, and William N. Strong and Frank N. Derby, each clerks and later treasurers. These men each threw their weight on the side of payment, as did many others in the county. But the majority sentiment of the county finally settled to this policy, as the only way out of the dilemma. It is a curious fact that this main suit brought by A. P. Powers was never tried in court, as a court trial. In all reality it was tried by the court of public opinion and discussion. The Taxpayers' Association served its purpose and a useful mission. Its agitation aided in bringing order out of chaos. Many meetings were held in various parts of the county.

This important and far-reaching suit was brought in the district court of O'Brien county, as stated, by A. P. Powers and one hundred and ninety-nine others as plaintiffs and landowners to stop and enjoin the county treasurer by injunction from paying these bonds or county debt. It was taken

to the supreme court of the state. The question was raised that each plaintiff must bring his own suit. Two hundred resident and nonresident landowners had united in the suit on the belief that they could thus join. The supreme court decided on October 6, 1880, in effect that they could not so join. (See case of A. P. Powers and One Hundred and Ninety-nine Others vs. O'Brien County, in 54 Iowa Supreme Court Reports, page 501, for the decision.) This decision also held that it would not enjoin that part of the debt or those parts of the debt given for actual necessities. These bondholders had mixed these parts of the debt for necessities, the good with the bad, until it was seen that an endless chain of litigation was to follow. This decision practically paralyzed further proceedings. The board had refused to bring the suit. The United States court had held that the board only could bring it in that court. Add to this the further outlook that even after such an injunction was fought through and even sustained, that the bondholders, not yet made parties, could go into court each separately and test out these several rights and questions, and the still further fact that it was tying up the county business—all contributed to its final dismissal. Both sides agreed that the debt as such was unjust. It was simply a question whether to fight it was practical. The court's decisions thus far seemed to sustain the contention of the side advocating payment as the best road out of the bad matter. The meshes of the law seemed too intricate to practically contest out such complications. A. P. Powers, "Huse" Woods and many other leaders in this large movement spent much time in this earnest effort to defeat this unjust debt. Three months after this, on January 4, 1881, the county, by its board of supervisors, rebonded the whole debt, as shown elsewhere, and followed up with the policy of payment of the debt, and the last bond was paid off in 1908. The Taxpayers' Association employed the legal firm of Miller & Godfrey, of Des Moines, the chief members being Judge William E. Miller, prior chief justice of the supreme court of Iowa. The firm of Joy & Wright, of Sioux City, represented the other side of the question.

RESUMPTION OF CASH PAYMENTS.

During these years it also occurred that thousands of dollars of worthy county warrants were issued for necessities and supplies, and presented and marked "Not paid for want of funds." Up to 1876 not even a list of the items of debt or list of bonds or judgments had been prepared. The speculators, however, had looked to it in each set of bonds issued that a resolution ordering this and that bond was drawn up in legal shape and recorded in

the supervisors' record. George W. Schee was elected in 1875 to qualify January 1, 1876, on the conditions that these debts and judgments and bonds must be looked into, made of record and the public informed of the results. Mr. Schee made the first tabulated list of the indebtedness; indeed it was an exhaustive search of every possible debt, bond and judgment, rendered in the various courts, and tabulated them in a record purchased by the board expressly for that purpose. Therein Mr. Schee rendered the county a very great service in putting matters into shape where the people were informed of the real condition and what the county was up against. The more the search, the deeper and more deplorable it was found. The debt as finally summed up (and his tabulation stood the test of the later years of examination), showed a total debt of two hundred and forty thousand dollars in 1876 and two hundred and thirty thousand dollars in 1880. All that had been bonded bore ten per cent. The annual interest, therefore, reached above twenty thousand dollars. As this was not being paid, it was simply adding itself to the unfortunate situation.

ANOTHER NOTABLE MEETING.

It was perhaps ten days after the above taxpayers' picnic in Grant township that a meeting, not of the mass, but of perhaps fifteen men, met in the hardware store of Ezra M. Brady, including, as nearly as the writer can from memory give them: Mr. Brady, George W. Schee, J. L. E. Peck, William W. Johnson, Isaac W. Daggett, Harley Day, George Hakeman, Hubert Sprague, C. Longshore, Thomas Holmes and perhaps others. They all agreed that something had to be done. It was not a called meeting, but the discussion brought them together. The one theme was to see what could be done to put the county on a cash basis where it could resume cash payments of its outside obligations. At that meeting it seemed to be conceded that the policy proposed by the Taxpayers' Association was impracticable, and that something more substantial must be the final policy of the county. In addition to the twenty-three thousand dollar interest on the public debt, there was the regular annual running expenses, which required three dollars in county warrants for each dollar needed. It was insisted that the public finances could not stand up under such a strain, that the county must be put on a cash basis. The tax lists were carefully examined and the amount that was likely to be collected from taxes determined. Then it was urged that for a trial year that the expenses of the county must be kept within the sum.

(6)

It was further decided that the board of supervisors be asked to pass a resolution, in effect, discarding for the time being all back debts, so far as any present effort to pay same. This resolution was finally adopted to apply to the year 1879, the resolution reading that all county warrants for that year should have endorsed thereon in red ink the words: "Issued on the levies of 1879," which meant that all expenses of that year should be paid out of the taxes collected for that year. When once a man could get one hundred cents on the dollar for his warrant, it became at once worth one hundred cents. The plan worked immediately, and for all time thereafter. The total expenses on the county fund for this last year of the term of George W. Schee as auditor was just a little over five thousand dollars, and for 1880, the first year of J. L. E. Peck as auditor, about six thousand dollars. Later on, when the county got a surplus of funds, the older and then discarded warrants outstanding were paid in full, and O'Brien county established on a cash basis. It was hardly a case of resumption, as the county had never been on a cash basis since its organization. It was rather a case of establishment of that condition. The real credit for the originating of this plan must largely be given to George W. Schee, Ezra M. Brady and Thomas Holmes, and to its fulfillment, to the board, then composed of Thomas Holmes, Ralph Dodge, J. H. Wolf, Ezra M. Brady, William Oliver, Emanuel Kindig and Joseph Rowland, who were among the members of the board during the following two years. It was not simply in the policy thus adopted, but the principle was carried out in the details of public expenses. For instance, the board insisted that the auditors, George W. Schee and J. L. E. Peck, should serve for seven hundred dollars per annum salary, this being later on enlarged to eight hundred and twenty-five dollars. All other officials and expenses were put on a similar basis.

TAX SALE OF 1880.

As we have shown, the citizens quite generally for four years up to 1880 had refused to pay their taxes, on the line of the picnic speech by Thomas J. Steele, candidate for county auditor. The statutory penalties had added largely to the amount of taxes due. At the tax sale held October 7, 1880, conducted by T. J. Alexander, treasurer, and J. L. E. Peck, county auditor, these delinquent lands were sold for these four or less years as per the facts, for full taxes and penalties. A tax sale purchaser under the then law, got a penalty at once added of twenty per cent. as an inducement to purchase, and then ten per cent. interest on the whole amount. This, in connection

with the fact that the values of land had risen somewhat, and the further fact that the county had at this date been on a cash basis for one year, and the people were getting heart again, brought out a large number of bidders and was the largest tax sale ever held in the county. The sale, together with funds from a prior sale, amounted to thirty thousand dollars. In the regular course of funds, this sum should have been distributed to the several county, poor, bridge and school funds, as per levies, and in theory of law it could have been enforced. The board, however, took the bull by the horns, as it were, discarded the question of funds, and applied the whole thirty thousand bodily on the debt of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars. This, as can be seen, reduced the debt to even two hundred thousand dollars. While in a sense it was illegal, yet as the four years were past, and even the schools needed only the coming current year's taxes, the people justified the board's action. It was one of the very few cases where a direct violation of law proved a crowning success. At all events, this payment and reduction of thirty thousand dollars of the public debt gave new heart to the people. It was the first lifting of a dark cloud.

REBONDING OF JANUARY 4, 1881.

On January 4, 1881, on the opening of the second year of the term of J. L. E. Peck as county auditor, a further decisive action was taken by the board. Ten per cent interest on this debt still loomed up as a hard fate. On that date a resolution was passed to rebond this remaining two hundred thousand dollars of the debt by an issue of new bonds to take up all outstanding matters and to bear seven per cent. instead of ten per cent, thus reducing the annual interest six thousand dollars. This also revived the spirits of the people. The grasshoppers had quit, which had also lifted further the clouds. The reduction of the annual expense on the county fund to five thousand dollars, and even as late as 1883 to eight thousand dollars, broke loose still more clouds, for the blue sky and the sun to shine through. The effort to defeat the debt vanished entirely, and this fact gave the county, as well as individual obligations and land loans, a better credit. Land began to be quoted as a thing of real value, though even then at only from five to eight dollars per acre, and the people began to realize the dream of a home in O'Brien county. It took seventeen thousand signatures for the county auditor to sign those bonds and the coupons of interest attached, which still said that the county had a yoke on its neck. The railroads were in the meantime being actually built, the Milwaukee in 1878 and the Northwestern in

1881, and the people began to conclude that we might even yet amount to something. New settlers were added and people began to talk of the grasshopper times as a past calamity. Still later on this debt was again rebonded and the interest this time reduced to five and still later to four and one-half per cent, and the people began to see the clear sky clear down to the horizon. But even then the people were exclaiming that if their land ever got up to twenty-five dollars per acre it would be the top, and they would sell at once, which many of them did, little dreaming that right here in O'Brien county was a soil unequalled anywhere on earth, and that in this year of grace 1914 it would actually sell for *one hundred and fifty dollars per acre*. The last thousand dollars of the debt was paid off in the year 1908.

CHAPTER V.

HOMESTEADS AND FREE LANDS.

SQUATTER LANDS—LITIGATION OVER THE OVERLAPPING LANDS.

The long-drawn-out contest, or series of contests, over the overlapping lands in O'Brien county commenced with the "squatter" in 1882 and did not end until 1910, and even yet, for several years, some of the fragments will appear in the courts. It has included several score of forcible entry and detainer suits, before justices of the peace, for possession, probably about eight hundred suits and litigations in the district court of the county, several hundred larger and test suits in the district and circuit courts of the United States, probably forty of same being before the circuit court, and half that number before the circuit court of appeals at St. Paul and St. Louis, and perhaps about ten before the supreme court of the United States. In addition to this, every tract in eighties or quarter sections has been before the land court of the United States land office at Des Moines, comprising two hundred and fifty separate hearings, with rehearings and intermediate items, with large numbers appealed to the general land office, and quite a number of hearings had before the secretary of the interior. There have been several special acts of Congress directed specifically to the lands in O'Brien county, and the matter has engaged the attention of the Legislatures of the state of Iowa in about a dozen acts and amendments. It is not every county that will receive a special proclamation by the President of the United States, but such was the case in the proclamation of President Grover Cleveland in 1896 in opening up these Sioux City lands to homestead entry. The questions involved several governors and attorney-generals of Iowa. Probably one hundred and fifty attorneys have been engaged on one side or the other in the multitude of items in litigation. Even such men as the celebrated Judge William Lawrence and Gen. Benjamin F. Butler have given it their attention. The board of supervisors of O'Brien county for twenty-five years have at almost every session had some tangled question relating to taxes, either with the railroads or with the squatters. Squatters'

unions of litigants were continuous for twenty years, organized to keep up united investigation and action from their standpoint.

It involved two divisions of lands. That known as the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, or, as we shall for brevity call them, the Milwaukee lands, involved forty-one thousand six hundred and eighty-seven and fifty-two hundredths acres, and which were patented to that road by the United States on September 27, 1886. The second division, composed of twenty-one thousand one hundred and seventy-nine and eighty-five hundredths acres in O'Brien county and eight hundred acres in Dickinson county, were originally granted to the Sioux City & St. Paul Company on May 12, 1864, but which they failed to earn, as we shall see herein. The claims of this latter road form the basis of the contentions we will recite in this chapter. The real questions involved were finally submitted to and decided by the supreme court of the United States on October 21, 1895, in favor of the squatters and the President's proclamation opened the same to homestead entry, as preferred entrymen under the act of Congress of May 14, 1880, which act provided that whoever took actual bona fide possession of any vacant tract of public land, whether surveyed or unsurveyed, in good faith intention to make same a home, should have the first thirty days' right after proclamation by the President of the United States that same was subject to entry, to file his application and proofs of possession. In fact, the matter has been one of the biggest single items of public interest ever in the county, and forms the basis or reason for devoting a lengthy chapter in giving its details.

The first half of the fight included both the Milwaukee and Sioux City lands. The whole trouble and litigation grew out of the crude and inconsistent acts of Congress in making its grant of lands to aid railroads in their construction in the newer countries or sections where the traffic of railroads would not collect a paying revenue to run and manage a road.

GRANTING ACT OF CONGRESS.

The Congress of the United States, on May 12, 1864, passed an act for the grant of lands to the state of Iowa, in alternate sections of land, to aid in the construction of railroads, namely, granting one hundred sections, or about sixty-four thousand acres, for each section of ten miles of a fully equipped railroad built.

This grant applied to both the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company and the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad. Each of these roads was

first known by the name of the construction company building same, but to avoid confusion we will speak of them by their later names. The grant, in result, provided that the Milwaukee company should be built from McGregor, Iowa, west and form a junction with the Sioux City road in O'Brien county, or, as it later developed, at Sheldon, Iowa.

These lands were to be selected in alternate sections, by the odd numbers, under certain conditions within the ten-mile limits, and under certain other conditions within twenty miles of the respective lines of road. Thus it may be seen that in the very grant itself the subject of friction was laid and at once became a bone of contention between the two roads. This question arises at each point of forty miles square wherever two great roads cross, receiving such a grant, but as two roads can only cross once, and as these grants were made only to long through lines, there are but few such cases, and it fell to the lot of O'Brien county to be inflicted for twenty-five years with the litigations of such an overlap of lands, hence called "overlapping lands."

FIRST FIGHT BETWEEN THE TWO RAILROADS.

The first legal contest occurred between the two railroads to determine what those overlapping interests caused by this grant meant. This was brought on by a suit in equity brought in the United States circuit court at Sioux City, Iowa, in 1884 by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad as plaintiff against the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad Company, and Elias F. Drake and Alexander H. Rice as Trustees (later Mr. Rice resigned and Amherst H. Wilder was named in his place), and who were holders of said lands as trustees to secure two million eight hundred thousand dollars in the bonds of said road, to raise funds to build same, John H. Gear, Governor of Iowa, and J. K. Powers, Register of the State Land Office for Iowa, defendants.

There were many legal questions involved relating to the relative rights of the lands within the ten-mile and twenty-mile limits. In brief, the court dealt with the matter on equity principles as in partition of lands, solving it out in sundry classes according to those rights, but, in result, giving to each road its particular sections or parts thereof in sole ownership. This suit was finally submitted to Judge Love, October 7, 1886, and decided as above. A referee or master in chancery was appointed by the court to make the actual partition. This he did and his report of same was confirmed and decree rendered December 18, 1886. This decree will be found recorded in the office of the county recorder. But this decision only decided the matters

between the roads themselves. It did not and could not decide whether or not the roads had in fact earned the lands under the grant.

THE MILWAUKEE RAILROAD LAND.

This allotment of lands to the Milwaukee road was in fact patented to that road by the state of Iowa under the patent on September 27, 1886, and its record found in book 23, page 436, of deed records of the county. The question of its title to these lands never got into the large courts seriously, though Dr. H. M. Hamblin in part raised the question at one time, as did the lands of the Sioux City Company. The question of its title and the issuance of its patents was solved largely in the general land office at Washington. This company sold all this large allotment of forty-one thousand six hundred and eighty-seven and fifty-two hundredths acres to the Western Land Company, of which E. McMurtree was one of its officers and chief manager so far as its activities in this county were concerned. This company had many years of contentions with the squatters in evictions, as below shown, and Mr. McMurtree became for ten years a well known and fighting character in the county and its courts, and in his dealings in inducing many of them to purchase and in evicting by writs those who refused to purchase. In result, its titles were maintained.

COMMENCEMENT OF REAL SQUATTER POSSESSION.

The real squatting on lands applied to the lands of both roads. Credit must be given to the discovery of the real squatter idea to Dr. Howard M. Hamblin, who came to O'Brien county in 1881 and purchased school lands in Highland township, settling in Primghar. He proceeded at once as a squatter on the northeast quarter of section 1, in Dale township, being now a part of Derby & Rowan's addition to Primghar, and erected a residence on what is now Main street. We say residence, but in fact it was a squatter's shanty, though of the better variety. Doctor Hamblin came as a real settler and farmed for many years his lands in Highland township. He had been an office holder in Washington and there got hold of this squatter idea. He was a very sanguine man, set positively in his idea, which amounted almost to a hobby, though not quite sufficiently practical to get down to the real legal questions involved, which all saw later must govern. He never got down to the real fact that the two roads were not on the same footing, one, the Milwaukee road, having already, in 1878, completed its road to

Sheldon as per the grant, while the Sioux City road had only built to Le Mars, Iowa, which was finally fatal to its proofs relating to the earning of its lands. His fight was much a mass fight against all railroads. It had been true that both roads had dilly-dallied in building, waiting as long as they dared, and building only when they had to, not in reality fulfilling the real intent of Congress to aid railroads in building across the then barren prairie to induce settlers to come in. Indeed the roads waited for the settler himself. This provided the argument for prejudice against the railroad. Many squatters accepted this fiery argument against the railroad as the law, losing sight of the fact that the courts and departments, and even the supreme court of the United States, on cold principles of law, must and did finally decide. Doctor Hamblin proceeded too much in moral efforts with members of Congress and the Legislature for new proceedings and enactments. He evidently overlooked the fact that even Congress by new enactment could not take away a single right that either road had acquired under the grant by building. The roads had acquired vested rights and must have their day in court, and the courts only could decide the questions finally.

Doctor Hamblin, however, was a very active and persistent man and kept the roads, as well as the squatters, sitting up and taking notice. He was sincere and dealt with the squatter candidly from his viewpoint. He proceeded to advertise in sundry Scandinavian, Dane, German and American papers, that there were large tracts of homestead land subject to entry in O'Brien county. He talked to the writer as county auditor, through whom he purchased his school lands, on this squatter subject as early as 1880, and wanted him to go into the matter. This was discussed in the county, at first faintly, but did not reach a stampede or influx of squatters until February 22, 1884.

AN EXCITED CROWD.

On that date the writer arrived home from a trip and found the whole public square around the court house, and every hitching post in town, lined with teams, buggies, wagons and saddle horses in hundreds. The motley crowd thus called together were much excited over these homestead lands. People came during the next several days and weeks from everywhere, real homesteaders of the bona fide class, land speculators, promoters, young men not even twenty-one years of age, even ladies, attorneys, bankers, business men and wealthy people. Many foreigners came in response to the advertisements in the papers and with small idea of what it all meant. An entry

for homestead may be made before a clerk of courts, provided they are more than one hundred and fifty miles from the land office which in this case they were. This fact, together with getting actual possession, brought the crowd. The clerk could not make out papers fast enough. The writer was besieged for advice and to draw papers. He gave to all the same advice as did most other attorneys, namely, that he would draw the papers, but that the whole law question or questions were yet unsolved and that they must take their chances on results.

POSSESSION NINE POINTS OF THE LAW.

The act of Congress of May 14, 1880, has already been referred to, giving to every person first, in possession of such government lands with bona fide intent, the first thirty days' right to enter it as a homestead. This made quick work necessary to get possession and to make a bona fide showing of a home and house and to be actually in possession. Much of it would have been humorous had it not been so serious.

Thus far and for six years this excitement applied itself to the lands of both roads, neither Doctor Hamblin, who assumed the leadership, nor the squatters in their choice of location making any difference as to which lands they jumped or took possession of.

THE OLDER SETTLERS BECOME A FACTOR.

These lands being the odd numbered sections, and the still older homesteaders of 1870-71-72 having homesteaded the even numbered sections, many of them for one reason and another had either broken up a few acres, or broke around some haystack to protect them, or broke up a strip in front of their premises as a protection against prairie fires, or built some cattle corral or shed, sheep shed, granary or secondary building across the roads from their homes, on some part of these railroad lands. Many of these people or their grown-up-sons at once saw the point of possession, and many families or a member at once put in a bed or a cot, stove and cupboard and were housekeeping within a few hours. Old stoves were at a premium. Improvised chimneys were built in old sheds, all to make up a bona fide appearance. A few even proceeded, so excited were they, to move their main substantial buildings, even buildings that it would materially damage to so remove. These new comers at once saw that they had to get quickly into possession.

SQUATTERS' SHANTIES.

As one can see, in this excitement little shacks jumped up over night all over these lands, and resulted, in many cases, in two and three men getting possession the same day, and often on getting up in the morning to find themselves "jumped," as it was called by some enterprising squatter who had during the night built or pulled on a shanty on the other end of his land. One load of lumber in many cases built a "home," often at a cost of about fifteen dollars. In the later litigation on the Sioux City lands, these first sudden possessions became in fact very material.

JUMPING BECAME A BUSINESS.

"Jumping" brought on many contentions. Indeed, in many cases, where two men jumped on in the night, and on different parts of a quarter section of land, it became difficult to tell or prove who was first. Others openly jumped the other man and took his chances. The older settlers of 1870-72 who already had shacks on these lands, claimed they had possession all the time for all those years. This brought on physical combats, and even burnings of each others' buildings and openly moving each other's shacks off. It happened in many instances, for even a number of years, that two men, fully knowing the facts, would put double crops in on top of each other, and often of different grains. This brought on litigations and proceedings to keep the peace. Farming with a revolver was often indulged in. Many forcible entry and detainer suits for possession before justices of the peace were brought to put one another off. The writer participated in many of them as attorney. Many odd and amusing scenes took place.

NOT A CRIME—DIDN'T STEAL THE LUMBER.

I will give one actual incident to illustrate. One dapper little attorney came hurriedly from Chicago, on hearing of the excitement, dressed as if out of a band box. He was on the ground early and proved much of a scrapper. He hauled two separate loads of lumber on two separate tracts, on the theory that he would at least succeed on one of them. He got one load hauled on the southwest quarter of section 29, in Center township, where Bert Foscett had broke up and farmed a little strip for several years, adjoining his father's farm. Bert heard of it and in the night proceeded to run the lumber up into the attic of the school house on the land. The Chi-

cago attorney in the morning was minus his lumber, or at least could not find it. He had Bert arrested for stealing the lumber. The writer defended on the ground that there was no intention to appropriate his property, simply to hide it temporarily, which was the true fact, hence no theft, and that theory at least was sustained. In the meantime during the two days occupied with this suit Bert had built a counter building of fair proportions and established his possession. It being Milwaukee land, he later bought it and got title. The little attorney who had come out from Chicago with quite a flourish of law, after spending about one hundred and fifty dollars, as he told me, went home in disgust, but with the idea that "teaching the natives" on western wild prairies was a new experience.

PRETEXTS OF POSSESSION.

The 1872 settlers, who had been for twelve years in the habit of cutting hay and grazing their stock on these odd numbered sections of land, sought all kinds of pretexts for claiming possession, some winning out and some failing.

A "HOME" IN A BIG DRY GOODS BOX.

One man got so excited that he hustled out with a big dry goods box and actually slept in it for three nights, until he could get something substantial on the ground, and in his case he actually won out.

TWO INCONSISTENT STATUTES.

First—I have already referred to the act of Congress of May 14, 1880, giving, in effect, the squatter first in possession, with bona fide intentions to make the land a home, the first thirty days' right to enter same when declared to be opened for homestead entry. This was the statute under which the squatters made their fight.

Second—On March 3, 1887, Congress passed a very extensive act relating to public lands, but among its provisions was a clause providing that any purchaser of land from a railroad, bona fide in good faith, whether earned or unearned, shall have the first thirty days' right to purchase the land from the government at the regular government price of two and fifty hundredths dollars or four hundred dollars per quarter section of land. This was evidently passed in the interest of the railroads. In result, it enabled the railroad to sell and get the full value of the land less this four

hundred dollars per quarter section, and this, too, whether it had built the road or not.

Here, however, the courts, as well as the squatters and railroads and contract holders from the railroads, found two diametrically inconsistent statutes, each giving the first right to two necessarily opposing men. In each case the phrase "bona fide" or good faith entered as a requirement, and this opened up much contending evidence of eye witnesses in the later hearings. The Sioux City road had in the meantime anticipated the matter by selling and issuing contracts for a large part of this twenty-one thousand one hundred and seventy-nine and fifty-two hundredths acres allotted, but not earned. Then, when it saw that a real contest was on in earnest, proceeded to sell all unsold balance in one drag-net contract to one Gotleib Schwartz, evidently to make one last clean-up. Then later, by assignments from him to various other parties it was sought to press before the courts this contract and these assignments as bona fide purchases, but this man Schwartz having been shown to be virtually acting for the road, the courts after long litigation held them frauds. Some residents of the county even helped to carry out this scheme.

LAND OFFICE TRIALS AT DES MOINES.

These two claimants, the squatter homesteader and the holder of one of these railroad land contracts, brought on a direct contest for each tract. This, in real result, necessitated two litigations. The hearings or trials before the land office or land court at Des Moines did not end the contest, not even when appealed to Washington. This for the reason that the land office is not what is known in law as a court of record, simply an administrative department. As was decided by the courts, the parties, squatters and contract holders, had not had their day in court. Hence after that was all over, each two men on a tract, squatter and contractor, had a right to and did bring his further action to try anew the same questions they had already spent much money in hearings before the land office. All this was occupying the years and wearing out the squatters, who were blessed with none too much money.

In the meantime Governors William Larrabee and Horace Boies and the Legislature of Iowa and Congress had repeated urgings from many angles to issue governor's deeds or patents from the state, and to enact statutes, which if effective, would arbitrarily end matters. With all these conflicting laws and facts, it took a long time for the idea to become well settled in the minds of the many parties in interest, that neither governors nor legis-

latures were courts, and could not take away vested rights under grants of Congress, or even to determine them, whatever they were. Herein evidently Doctor Hamblin erred.

A MASTER STROKE.

The fact gradually dawned on the public and the members of the squatters' union that it would require the courts to really settle matters. About the year 1887, a petition of squatters and other citizens of the county (indeed all wanted the vexed litigations ended) was directed to Congress asking the enactment of a statute or resolution authorizing the secretary of the interior, through the attorney-general of the United States and the department of justice, to institute a suit in the name of the United States as plaintiff and against the Sioux City road, praying the court for a decree quieting the title against the road, and re-establishing it in the United States, and declaring the same, in result, open to homestead rights. Congress passed such an act on March 3, 1887, known as 24 Statute 556, chapter 376, which provided for an adjustment of land grants of unearned lands, along many lines of difficulty, and ordering the secretary of the interior, under the proper facts shown, to make demand of the road for a relinquishment of its rights, and on his certificate of authority to make it the duty of the attorney-general to bring suit.

This suit was first brought in the circuit court of the United States in an action entitled, The United States, plaintiff, against The Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad Company, and Elias F. Drake and Anherst H. Wilder as trustees. This great suit was finally decided, after appeal, by the supreme court of the United States. This decision was handed down October 21, 1895, and the decree in full may be found in the 43 Federal Reporter, page 617 and forward. The decree and opinion by Justice Harlan is also recorded in full on the records of O'Brien county in Miscellaneous Book "B," pages 307 to 330. It was decided in favor of the United States. The attorney-general's office was assisted by E. C. Hughes, attorney, of Spencer, Iowa, and by Joy, Hudson, Call & Joy, of Sioux City. The railroad was represented by sundry able attorneys.

The subject developed the following conclusions: That the Sioux City road had not earned its lands. That the grants in the act of Congress of May 12, 1864, had provided that this road should receive one hundred sections for each completed ten miles of well built road, and that said road should be built from the state line of Minnesota to Sioux City, Iowa, which the court finds to be eighty-three and fifty-two hundredths miles. That it,

in fact, built in 1872 only from the state line to Le Mars, Iowa, a distance of fifty-six and thirteen hundredths miles. That it had built and was only entitled to an allotment of lands for five completed sections of ten miles each. That had it completed the road to Sioux City as per the grant it would have been entitled to the fraction over the completed sections, but that having only built as far as Le Mars it was not entitled to allotment for the fraction of the six and thirteen hundredths miles. That said road had leased the franchises and road bed and right to use same, and that it had so used and run its trains over the track and road bed of the Illinois Central Railroad Company from Le Mars to Sioux City. That such leasing and use of a road was not a "building of a road," as contemplated by the land grant of May 12, 1864, and that it was only entitled allotments for five completed sections of ten miles each, for, on July 26, 1872, it had built two sections of ten miles each or twenty miles, on August 10, 1872, ten miles, and on February 1, 1873, it had built twenty miles more, or five completed sections. The court further found that it had already received patents for more land than it in fact had earned; that it had received eighty-seven thousand eight hundred and seventy and twenty-one hundredths acres more than it had earned. It was therefore decreed that the Sioux City road was forever barred and estopped from claiming any right or title to any such lands, and that the trust deed securing the railroad bonds of two million eight hundred thousand dollars, and held by Elias F. Drake and Amherst H. Wilder as trustees, was cancelled so far as said lands were concerned. The decree in full of about twelve thousand words is an exhaustive review of all the facts and is a discussion of the details and law questions leading up to the above conclusions. This decision and suit was the master stroke of the whole long-drawn-out fight or series of litigations. It followed that the twenty-one thousand one hundred and seventy-nine and eighty-five hundredths acres in O'Brien county and eight hundred acres in Dickinson county were open to homestead entry.

MILWAUKEE LANDS AGAIN.

The squatters in the first instance occupied all the Milwaukee lands, commencing in the main, as did the squatting on the Sioux City lands, on February 22, 1884, though in a measure it commenced as early as 1882 and continued until evictions were procured commencing January 3, 1887, under writs of possession issued by the district court of the state for O'Brien county. The first squatters' union was organized by the squatters on the lands of both roads, with Dr. Howard M. Hamblin as organizer. It soon

became evident, however, that the leading questions in the two divisions of lands would involve two quite different set of questions. There soon also dawned on the minds of the people generally the fact that the Sioux City road had not earned its land, while the Milwaukee road had earned all the lands in the county allotted to it, and hence there was but little show for the squatters on the Milwaukee lands, but that the Sioux City lands would be opened to homestead.

EPHRAIM M'MURTREE.

In 1886 the Milwaukee road sent on an Englishman named Ephraim McMurtree as its representative to look after and sell these lands and deal with the Milwaukee squatters. He was well fitted from the road's standpoint, being a capable, well poised man, with good judgment, a good judge of law and business, and, above all, kept his temper in dealing with the oftentimes excited squatter. The very fact that their cause seemed waning seemed to cause many irritations. He proceeded to appraise the lands in tracts of eighties and quarters of from ten to fourteen dollars per acre, and put them on the market at their appraised prices, giving the squatter the first chance to buy, with a time limit which seemed reasonable, and giving him a first chance gave it an attitude of fairness. Each squatter who purchased and gave up, of course ended that much of the fight and gradually those buying dropped out of the squatters' union.

EVICCTIONS.

On January 3, 1887, and up to August, 1887, Mr. McMurtree filed one hundred and seventeen suits for eviction against the squatters and their families. They embraced suits in said court numbered consecutively from 1586 to 1701 and number 1878 and numbers 1914 to 1916. Irrespective of legal questions involved, evictions of families, putting them out of possession by the strong arm of the law, turning them out literally into the road, as in these cases out from under the roofs that covered their heads, involving women and children, even the infirm, from the houses which from their standpoint was home, has in it the elements of pity and distress.

William C. Green, or Clark Green as he was known, was the sheriff of O'Brien county to whom the writs were directed, and who as such made the actual evictions. In fact they were the most pitiful and wholesale set of transactions ever in the county. Probably from the standpoint of the

road it was the only thing it could do, as the squatters would not remove until compelled. The courts had decided that the road was right in its premises. The squatters on these lands, though wrong in their judgment, went into it under enthusiasm.

In the literal evictions it would well compare with the historic evictions of Ireland. They were all poor people, or they would not have been seeking homesteads. The bankers and promoters who first came on soon found that there was nothing in it for them. No matter who was wrong or right, in most cases they were poor people with large families, who had actually occupied and farmed more or less of the land for sundry years. It was a hard position in which to place a sheriff, whose votes he would necessarily seek at the next election. He accepted the situation as a legal duty and carried it out. The sheriff in fact took along with him four others, sworn in as deputies, and not only the families were turned out into the roads, but the buildings in many cases actually hauled by the sheriff off the land. In the case of Dr. Howard M. Hamblin, who fought his matter so persistently, his buildings were torn to pieces and scattered up and down the road, to which the writer was an eye witness. Quite a good many finally purchased, but many remained gritty. The county will probably never again witness a wholesale set of evictions. It was not a case of a poor landed country, but stern law, giving the railroads what the courts had decreed to be their rights.

Some of these evictions, though harsh, had their amusing sides. William E. English ("Bill"), a squatter on the northeast quarter of section 21, Center, was game. He wouldn't be put out. His family and old mother joined in the melee. Every time the sheriff went there, some member of the family went to bed sick. All hands were convinced, it was even openly boasted by "Bill" himself, that it was feigned. He was much of a scrapper and contended, in effect, that any fight was justifiable against a railroad. It took the sheriff most of the summer with the four deputies before he was evicted.

But practically none of the suits, even for eviction, ever got beyond the district court. It seemed by this time to be generally admitted and acquiesced in by all having even a superficial knowledge of the law as applied, that the Milwaukee lands really had no serious questions in it. The fight, with many of them, finally simmered down to an effort to secure better terms in a purchase or a little delay, to see if something might turn up. They were ready to grasp at any straw.

GEN. BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.

One incident occurred which well illustrated the unsettled ideas of title, involving no less a personage than the famous Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, the great attorney and famous Union general during the Civil War.

George W. Schee and J. L. E. Peck, the writer, ran the Primghar State Bank from 1886 to 1890. It had been definitely agreed between a bunch of some fifteen Milwaukee squatters that the bank would loan to each five hundred dollars to make their first payments. This number of fifteen had decided to give up. Some one of the leaders in a sort of desperation had telegraphed to General Butler asking him if he could be engaged. General Butler was not at home. A clerk of his telegraphed him, and he in turn telegraphed to Primghar that he would accept a retainer. He had not even a statement of the facts before him. He simply would accept a retainer. As any one can see, this telegram meant nothing. That day a large squatters' union was held by the Milwaukee road squatters. That telegram was read amid intense enthusiasm. Even this number of fifteen squatters who had given up, on the strength of this slim straw joined the crowd in the enthusiasm. The crowd threw up their hats and came to the bank with the exulting news that General Butler had given an opinion. Many other such waverings took place. It ended those loans for six months or more. Indeed, it is almost grimly humorous that even from that time on in 1887 many of the Sioux City squatters spent more per acre in expense fighting for their lands than the Milwaukee road got for their lands, namely ten to fourteen dollars per acre. It all simply illustrates what grit, egged on by enthusiasm, and, as the squatters and many others thought, a wrong by the railroads, will do.

THE 1872 HOMESTEADERS NOT AT FIRST FAVORABLE TO THE SQUATTER.

Many, or most of, the early 1870-1880 settlers, the writer included, in the first instance sided with the railroad for two reasons. First, a railroad title immediately made the land subject to taxation and the county needed the taxes. If it all went to homestead it would go from five to eight years before it would be proved up upon and become taxable. Secondly, the older 1872 homesteaders had had free hay and cattle range on these odd numbered sections for so long that they did not welcome a cutting off of this asset.

SIOUX CITY LAND SQUATTERS AGAIN.

The writer has termed the decision of the supreme court of the United States of October 21, 1895, as the "master stroke" of the Sioux City land squatters. And so it was. However, it was but the beginning of their long and tedious fight. The patenting to the Milwaukee road of their lands reduced the number of the squatters union to one-third of its prior numbers, though it seemed settled in every body's mind that in the main question the Sioux City land squatters would be sustained.

The blunder of Congress in its act of March 3, 1887, lay in the giving to any person holding a contract from the railroad a preferred right to purchase same. This in result brought on an equivalent of an expensive litigation before the United States land court, only to find, when finished, that the contractor could again raise the question before a court of record.

The proclamation of President Grover Cleveland and attendant notices were published in February, 1896, in the *Sheldon Eagle* at Sheldon, Iowa, and each holder of a railroad contract filed his contest as per the notice given.

The United States land court was presided over by Hon. Edward B. Evans, register of the land office. In the meantime sundry divisions of squatters employed this and that attorney or firm of attorneys, usually under a written contract wherein they agreed to pay one dollar per acre when title was procured and fifty dollars per year as long as they were maintained in possession, varying in condition with the sundry attorneys. Sundry of these attorneys who made these conditional contracts, were Judge William Lawrence, of Ohio, a man of national prominence; Joy, Call, Joy & Wright, of Sioux City; John W. Corey, of Spencer, Iowa; King & Stearns, J. L. E. Peck and O. H. Montzheimer, of Primghar; J. F. Conrad, A. R. Lowry, Judge George H. Carr, of Des Moines; Ex-Attorney-General Henry O'Connor and others; while W. P. Jewett, of St. Paul; W. D. Boies, O. M. Barrett and Milt H. Allen, of Sheldon; C. A. Babcock, of Sanborn; J. T. Conn, of Hartley; J. H. Swan and Judge Chase, of Sioux City, appeared for the railroad contract men. This land court was in almost continual session during the year 1896 and a large part of 1897. Test cases were agreed upon by the parties and attorneys, as would most nearly include as many of the contested questions as possible. The case of Olive Manley, plaintiff (squatter) against Andrew Tow, was, among others, appealed to the general land office

at Washington and finally to the courts, and perhaps was the most noted case tried. This court tried about one case per day.

THE SQUATTERS SUSTAINED IN THE MAIN.

During this period of about a year and a half as these trials proceeded, from time to time the register rendered his opinions, in the main sustaining the squatter as against the railroad contract. In some considerable number of cases, however, the contracts were upheld. But in most of such cases it was where the contract man was able in the early local scrimmage to retain actual possession, and where he was in that position that had he not held it under the contract, he could have homesteaded it as did the squatter. The contract man was also sustained in some cases, where that phrase "bona fide," which occurs in both statutes, was considered, and in the special case seemed the stronger with the contract holder, this phrase, as we have shown, occurring in both the squatter statute of May 14, 1880, and the railroad statute of March 3, 1887. Each of those statutes applied to all alike, of course, but we use the expression, squatter's and railroad's statutes as the public got to know him. However, in all that litigation there were scores of technical questions of law and fact, especially of first possession.

ODD INCIDENTS IN SQUATTER MELEES.

Fights and scraps for possession are not always consistent. A goodly number of scrimmages took place between the squatters themselves, and also with the old settlers, in attempts to forcibly move buildings across the road, either to get possession or to get somebody else off, and which at times would bring together quite a crowd. Nobody was ever seriously injured physically, but one can see the tension of feeling aroused.

GLAD HE WAS EVICTED.

It was Mr. Squatter, Mr. M. D. Finch. He first took possession of a piece of the Milwaukee land and had got his buildings erected, and lived on same some years and until the evictions in January, 1887. He and his family were among the evicted. As good luck should happen, a good quarter section of Sioux City land which had not yet been landed upon cornered to this Milwaukee quarter. Sheriff Clark Green, with his four deputies, came on with good official Irish eviction ceremonies, to land off and put out this

good son of Erin, and proceeded to land Mr. Finch, family, buildings and all over on the other corner. A goodly crowd had assembled to witness Sheriff Green hold court, and perhaps take a hand, should need arise. But the Milwaukee road was on top and he was officially landed over onto a rich quarter of Sioux City land that proved out with other squatters' homesteads a good title and on which he still resides with his family, and the land worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. When you evict old Ireland, look out. She is still on hand for home rule at the next session of Parliament, as was squatter M. D. Finch.

AN INSANE CASE.

The writer, with his family, on one Christmas day, in 1880, was riding by one squatter's homestead land and house. I mistook the place for another man I wished to see. His barn was between the house and the road, some distance apart. As the barn was passed the thought came to look in the barn, as perhaps he was there. But all at once here came the squatter from the house, almost in a frenzy, cursing at the top of his voice, and insisting that I was "spying round to get a hook of possession on him and get him off." It was least in my mind. A few months later he was sent to the insane hospital at Cherokee, and is yet there, incurable. It was not the special incident that drove him insane, as the evidence at the hearing developed, but the severe tension of the three to four years of scrapping in the excitements for possession unbalanced him. It was a sad and true incident.

A HAY STACK POSSESSION.

Another incident I must mention as coming under my personal attention in which I took a part. Many squatters came and went, got sick and quit, it all being experimental. They would often become intensely excited, especially when crowds assembled. This incident occurred on section 17, in Highland, in 1885. This six hundred and forty acres was all vacant, and covered with good prairie grass. Squatters had squatted on each quarter of it. William King, one of the old 1872 homesteaders, had cut and stacked on this section about sixty tons of hay in sundry stacks on different parts of the section. These new squatters feared that this haystack possession might be construed into a claim of possession, and they forbade Mr. King to remove the hay. One day about twenty sympathizing squatters from surrounding sections assembled on this section, and lay down on the tops of

these hay stacks, in singles, twos and threes, and then sent Mr. King a notice not to haul any hay. They did not need the hay, as they had no stock. It was purely a fear as to possession. Mr. King came to myself and George W. Schee for advice. Mr. King had a large family of sons and sons-in-law. We advised him to meet the question on the same basis of numbers. To watch for a day, when they seemed to be absent, and then have each son and son-in-law get a team and hay rack, go in a body and load and move the hay. This seemed so formidable that the squatters let them move the hay.

THE COWS NOT MILKED FOR TWO DAYS.

This incident occurred on this same section 17 in Highland. Mr. King had gone to attend the Sheldon district fair. His cattle, including a large number of milch cows, were ranging and grazing on this section. On the theory that these cattle were trespassing, and under the herd law which had been voted upon in O'Brien county and passed, squatters took possession of the whole herd and engaged the cattle corral of the neighbor, and locked up the cattle and several stood guard to see that he did not get his cattle out. Mr. Schee and I were again called in. It was a rainy season and the lot deep in mud. We went down. The squatters were firm in their legal opinions. This was the second day and the cows not milked and standing in the mud. They wanted one hundred and fifty dollars damages. A parley was held well into the day. Not an inch from that sum did they move. The owner of the lot, however had not fully sized the matter up. As a matter of fact, this owner was the only one who was financially good. The others were safe. As a last resort, we drew up an original notice and served on this man claiming in damages the full value of the cattle. He then woke up. They parleyed and began to drop in price, by tens of dollars at a time. They finally got down to two dollars damage. By that time we got gritty and held out. They were finally released with no damages allowed to the squatters. But after all they were in reality contending for supremacy of possession.

We have thus given a very extended account of this long-drawn-out squatter fight. It lasted practically thirty years, as a decisive public question. The lands of the Sioux City Company were in seven different townships and the Milwaukee lands in a larger number, all covering large legal questions and, including both squatters and old settlers, involved over half the citizens of the county. We realize that this squatter chapter may be thought too

long and out of proportion in length for a well-proportioned county history, but as it has covered three-fourths of the whole period of the county's years, and including the whole business career of the writer, and in which the writer personally participated, it is fully given, the writer concluding that he will therefore be pardoned at times in using the pronoun I in reciting the details.

KING & STEARNS, ATTORNEYS, AND ROBERT P. JONES, SQUATTER.

This chapter on the squatters should not be closed without special mention of the very great services performed for and on behalf of the squatters by the firm of King & Stearns, composed of John T. Stearns, one of the very oldest settlers in the county, dating back to about 1875, and John H. King, of Huron, South Dakota, who put in practically ten years of labor in direct every-day consultations with the large number of one hundred and twenty-five on the Sioux City lands who finally won out, to say nothing of the still larger number on the Milwaukee lands and the scores of others who fell by the way for one reason and another. One could not state the matter in connection with them without mentioning the name of Robert P. Jones, who was constant in and out of season on all occasions. In the land court trials at Des Moines, covering more than one and one-half years, and at intervals, from day to day and week to week, he sat through with King & Stearns in continual advice and in keeping track of the actual facts in each special case that should be brought out. He was dubbed at times a part of the court; being constantly on hand, he had, next to Mr. Stearns, a better knowledge of the set of facts in each case in hand than any attorney on either side of the question. It was his part also in the county itself to go from man to man, squatter to squatter, from "shack to shack," as the expression went, to dig out the facts. So intense was the zeal in the matter that no item was considered too small to search out in its finest details. In addition to the "master stroke" decision in the United States supreme court, and even prior to that decision, the Sioux City road, on August 24, 1887, brought a suit for ejectment against practically all the squatters in separate suits. It was the case of Robert P. Jones in district court No. 1961 in O'Brien county, and a second case that against L. Mulligan that were made test cases. It was first decided in the district court against Mr. Jones, but, on appeal to the state supreme court, was reversed and decided in his favor.

PRESIDENT SQUATTERS' UNION.

In a sense, Dr. Howard M. Hamblin acted as sort of leader when the two set of squatters were together, but the real squatters' union that finally organized developed mainly in aid of the Sioux City lands, and was organized in 1886, though the first president as so organized was L. T. Gates, of Highland, a Milwaukee squatter. During this year of 1886 Robert P. Jones acted as secretary. The decisions in this year 1886 going against the Milwaukee men, naturally dropped out Mr. Gates, and in 1887, and until the organization was no longer needed, about 1905, Mr. Jones acted as its president and Daniel Mullin as its secretary. We must also mention the main test case of Olive Manley, squatter, against Andrew Tow, contractor, which was agreed upon as containing or involving more questions of law and fact than any other in which it won out, which suit was carried on by the union as such to final decision. This case was perhaps more quoted than any other in the whole litigation.

ROUND-UP TROUBLES.

We must mention the round-up relating to the squatters' attorney fees. Probably the attorney fees of any one set of attorneys employed would not have seemed to them exorbitant. But during these long years of excitement and new questions continually came up, and as each successive attorney thought he had the legal solution, when they had rounded up they found that many of them had signed written agreements covering large sums to various attorneys, which in the aggregate made this item of the long fight another problem. Some of the attorneys got intermingled with others, which also added to this difficulty. They also got tangled, many of them, with the contracts and their attorneys. After all was thought over in some of these latter cases they found in many instances an additional claim of from one thousand to fifteen hundred and more dollars, which many paid or gave a mortgage on their squatters' homestead thus gained. In many cases the squatter actually paid out more per acre than the Milwaukee squatters paid for the land itself in 1886, namely, from ten to fourteen dollars per acre. But in final result, they got their land.

RAILROAD AND SQUATTER ATTORNEYS BANQUETTED.

At the close of the above trials, the Hon. Edward B. Evans, register of the United States land office, gave a banquet to both the attorneys of the railroad or contract attorneys and squatter attorneys, at his residence at Des Moines. It was a pleasant evening spent with Mr. and Mrs. Evans and family, during which many pleasantries and amusing features of the long-drawn-out series of contests were discussed with much fun in a social way. There were present, as memory recalls, William D. Boies, Osmond M. Barrett, John F. Conrad, A. R. Lowry, Judge George H. Carr, John T. Stearns, John H. King, J. L. E. Peck, W. P. Jewett and Mr. Squatter Robert P. Jones and others.

Other attorneys not present, but in attendance at various of the trials and participating therein, were Judge William Lawrence, of Ohio, Joy, Call, Wright & Joy, Judge Chase and Col. J. H. Swan, of Sioux City, C. A. Babcock, of Sanborn, now Sheldon, J. T. Conn, of Hartley, and others.

LIST OF SIOUX CITY LAND SQUATTERS AND RAILROAD CONTRACT MEN.

In view of the fact that we have given this chapter this lengthy importance and most of them still living upon their lands thus won in so long a legal battle, we give the list of Sioux City land squatters and railroad contract men, as follows:

DALE TOWNSHIP.

Margaret A. Thayer (S. E. 11).	Ida Fife Rankin (NE. 15).
Hiram C. Thayer (S. W. 11).	Mary A. Smith (NW. 15).
Thor T. Naig (S. NE. 11).	George E. Godfrey (SW. 15).
Charles H. Brigham (S. NW. 11).	William Christopher Fife (SE. 15).
Otto Larson (NE. 13).	John Booge (SW. 19).
Edward Olson (NW. 13).	Henry Koch (NW. 19).
Robert P. Jones (SW. 13).	Mons Olson (SW. 5).
James T. Daniels (SE. 13).	Ben Olson (NW. 5).

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP.

William S. Medland (NE. NW. 3). Frank Woods (SE. NE. 15).

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP.

Charles H. Prior (SW. SW. 13, E. SW. 35, E. SE. 35).

BAKER TOWNSHIP.

Charles Gustafson (NE. 1).	George and Otto Collenius (NE. 17).
William Egdorf (NW. 1).	William F. Ankrum (NW. 17).
John Petterson (SW. 1).	Alfred Anderson (SW. 17).
Aleck Petterson (SE. 1).	Christ Kern (SE. 17).
Eli S. Mooney (NE. 5).	John Wood (E. NE. 19).
Henry C. Lane (SW. 5).	Henry Runger (E. SE. 19).
Unknown (NW. 5).	Alfred Smith (NE. 21).
Fred Beers (N. SE. and SE. SE. 5).	Jurgen Renken (E. NW. 21).
Anton Hoag (SE. NW. & W. NW. 7)	Heirs Jerry W. Griggs (W. NW. 21)
Nicholas Jungers (Part 7).	Charles A. Anderson (SW. 21).
Sarah Weaver (E. NE. 7).	Charles Buck (SE. 21).
Enoch Philby (E. NE. 9).	Soren Anderson (NE. 23).
Florence E. Morfitt (W. NE. 9).	August Walquist (NW. 23).
Elmira Knepper (SW. 9).	Martha An Marsh (SW. 23).
Jonas Hadene (SW. 9).	Christine Dixon (SE. 23).
Heirs O. M. Barrett (SE. 9).	Bernhard Kniese (NE. 27).
James W. Lasher (S. NE. 11).	Wallace Lasher (NW. 27).
John Akerson (S. NW. 11).	Charles Bartlet and Karl F. Snow
Henry C. Lane (SW. 11).	(SW. 27).
Henry C. Lane (SE. 11).	Christopher Nelson (SE. 27).
Daniel Behan (NE. 15).	Michael Hollis (N. SW. 29).
Charles G. Johnson (NW. 15).	Thomas Barry (S. NW. 29).
Jurgen Renken (SW. 15).	Max Thorman (SE. 29).
Theodore Goergen (E. NE. 21).	Elizabeth Goergen (SE. NW. 31).
John Ker (SE. 15).	

CARROLL TOWNSHIP.

Harvey Virgil (NE. 3).	L. S. Bassett and Eugene Riddell
Heirs Elmer A. Nelson (E. NW. 3).	(SW. 5).
Edwin McFarland (NW. 3).	Emily Powers (SE. 5).
Melvin D. Finch (SW. 3).	Theodore Dockendorf (E. SE. and
Ellen McCartney (SE. 3).	SW. NE. 7).

Charlotte Atherton (E. NE. 11).	William H. Bilsland (NE. 15).
Jacob Shelser (NE. 29).	Andrew Harkin (SW. 15).
Edward Mulligan (NW. 29).	John Bilsland (NW. 15).
James Potter (SW. 29).	Porter S. McNutt (SE. 15).
William H. Sleeper (SE. 29).	James Kelly (NW. 17).
John F. Langenhorst (E. SE. 31).	George Mennig (SW. 17).
George McKenna (W. NE. 11).	Henry O. Hurlbut (Part 19).
Carrie Griffith (E. NW. 11).	Dixon A. Harkin (NW. 23).
Elizabeth H. McClellan (W. NW 11).	Henry Boneskonsker (SW. 23).
George H. Whitmore (SW. 11).	John A. Harkin (NE. 23).
Daniel M. Merwin (N. SE. 11).	William M. Smith (SE. 23).
James Harkin (S. SE. 11).	

FLOYD TOWNSHIP.

Charles Daugherty (NE. 3).	John Weir (Part 17).
James Cutsinger (NW. 3).	Michael J. McGrath (SE. 17).
George W. Patterson (SW. 3).	Francis A. Lamb (E. NE. and E. SE. 19).
Florence Sullivan (SE. 3).	James Burns (E. NE. and E. SE. 25).
Myron H. Damon (SW. NE. and NW. SE. 7).	William Burns (W. NE. and W. SE. 25).
Philip Ling (NE. NW. 7).	Thomas Burns (NW. 25).
John Beacom (NE. 9).	Timothy Donahue (SW. 25).
John J. McGrath (NW. 9).	Judson W. Bishop (S. 29).
Bernard F. Treanor (SW. 9).	James Griffin (SE. NE. and NE. SE. 31).
Thomas Beacom (SE. 9).	Scott M. Ladd (15 acres 31).
John McGrath (NE. 17).	Patrick Kelly (SE. 33).
Scott Logan (N. NW. 17).	
William R. Davis (S. NW. 17).	

(Both the squatter and railroad contract man are given above, both being engaged in the long contention. The successful ones are given only).

CHAPTER VI.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

The county governmental affairs are administered and managed through the offices of the county auditor, county treasurer, clerk of courts, county recorder, sheriff, coroner, county attorney, county superintendent of schools, county surveyor, the board of supervisors and sundry town, township and school officials. The terms of all county officials are now for two years and all elections take place in the even numbered years, except that the county superintendent will hereafter assume his duties on September 1st and all other officials on January 1st of the odd numbered years. We will review each of these offices in this chapter or in the chapter on "The Courts," both as to their duties and the particular duties as performed in this county, and various policies with which they have dealt from time to time.

COUNTY AUDITOR.

Joseph B. Stamp is the present county auditor. The proceedings of the board of supervisors are transacted in his office and recorded by him. He carries out all orders of the board. It is the most important office in the county. In fact, it handles practically every business item in which the county is interested. The auditor makes the tax lists from the returns of the assessors and the tax levies from the various reports from the township and town and school boards. He deals with every official in the county, town, township and school board and with the state officials, and including town councils, mayors, justices of the peace, assessors, trustees, road supervisors, school directors, clerks and treasurers. The board of supervisors is judicial in some of its proceedings, and appeals may be taken from many of its actions to the district court. The auditor, with the county treasurer, holds the tax sales, and receives the money when redeemed. He, with the clerk and county recorder, draws the grand and petit juries. He enters all deeds for taxation, which in part becomes an abstract of title to all lands and lots in the county. He sells the school lands, and issues certificates to the governor calling for patents on same. He loans the funds or proceeds from these sales. He executes the county bonds, with the chairman of the board. With the board, he

and they act on all the financial policies of the county, the treasurer merely paying out on the warrants or orders of the board. He manages the purchases and sales of all school books under the uniform text book system. He issues licenses to peddlers and hunters and keeps the record of estray animals, and manages sundry items relating to the old soldiers, with its sundry humane connections. He deals with all matters relating to elections and their returns. His office has certain relations with the insane and the prisons, and must make reports to various state and federal authorities. In fact, this is an all-around office and equal to a bank in management. He issues all orders passed by the board. His entries are in a sense a duplicate of the treasurer and a check on that office. He issues bounties for wolf scalps. This office, which was created in 1870, deals with more separate items than any other in the county. Inasmuch as the two officers, county judge and county auditor, performed much the same duties, we will treat it under one head.

ACTUAL TERMS OF AUDITORS AND COUNTY JUDGES.

The following have been the terms as shown by the records, first of county judge: I. C. Furber, from February 6, 1860, to November 11, 1860. Archibald Murray, from November 11, 1860, to January 1, 1862. J. R. M. Cofer, from January 1, 1862, to March 1, 1863. John L. McFarland, from March 2, 1863, to January 2, 1865. Moses Lewis became county judge January 2, 1865, and the record shows him to be filling that office up to June 6, 1868. However, in the latter part of 1865 it shows that John Moore was county judge, though the records are not sufficiently definite either as to any election or his dates of service. Archibald Murray qualified as county judge June 6, 1868, and held same until January 1, 1870, when the office was abolished and he then became county auditor and held that position until January 1, 1872. Andrew J. Edwards followed from January 1, 1872, to January 1, 1876; George W. Schee from January 1, 1876, to January 1, 1880; J. L. E. Peck from January 1, 1880, to January 1, 1884; T. J. Alexander from January 1, 1884, to January 1, 1888; Charles H. Winterble from January 1, 1888, to January 1, 1895; John T. Conn from January 1, 1895, to January 1, 1899; Frank C. Wheaton from January 1, 1899, to January 1, 1903; John P. Bossert from January 1, 1903, to January 1, 1913, and Joseph B. Stamp from January 1, 1913, and is the present incumbent. We will commence with Archibald Murray, for the reason that he and Henry C. Tiffey did practically all the record work of the first ten years. The other

county judges merely carried out and became a part of that early looting which is sufficiently noted elsewhere.

ARCHIBALD MURRAY.

Archibald Murray was born in Lewiston, Niagara county, New York, in 1830, in which place he was raised, attending the district and higher schools of the town. He came west in 1885 and went into the land business in Winnebago county, Iowa, where he remained three years. About this time he entered into the Indian service and was for several years in the One Hundred and Ninety-sixth Iowa, and served in western Iowa and other places. As will be seen elsewhere, it was on a petition signed by Hannibal H. Waterman and seven others, and by this company of soldiers, that secured the county organization, though the names of the soldiers seems not to have been considered by the court. Mr. Murray participated in the organization, and his was one of the seven votes at the election of organization, and he became its first district clerk and surveyor. It has at times been claimed for Mr. Murray that he was not in the business of organizing western counties, like Bosler, Cofer, Tiffey and others, but after reading his many earmarks left, together with his name appearing in sundry other counties in like manner as in O'Brien, this charity can hardly be extended to him. For thirteen years he participated in all the public business and doings of this pretended county, and was acceptable to that official few who were the sole inhabitants until 1872, and filled every office in the county except county superintendent. He was judge at its first election. He and Tiffey did most of the record work. He built the "old log court house," as likewise the "not-to-be-over-eighteen-feet-square court house." On January 1, 1865, he became treasurer and recorder. He was county judge from November 1, 1860, to January 1, 1862, and was sheriff also part of that year, and again county judge on June 6, 1868, and in November, 1868, also became district clerk. On January 1, 1870, he became the first county auditor. It is thus seen that he was the only one of the original organizers of the county (except Mr. Waterman, who became a member of the board in 1870) handed down to the period of substantial settlement and who succeeded in engrafting himself into the good will of the homesteaders. There was a reason. He was a whole-souled, generous man, both individually and with the public funds, and was, in fact, a man whom people liked. He was a man of "de peoples," for honest old Dutch Fred, who declared himself to be "de peoples," died with the request that he might be buried by his side. When Dr. L. E. Head, county superin-

tendent, was consumptive and sick, Mr. Murray promptly contributed to and raised a fund to send him west for his health. O'Brien county cannot excuse Mr. Murray's public doings as this history shows that public business was transacted, but all the old settlers looked upon him with over generous impulses and as everybody's friend. He must have had a better side to his life, else the old settlers who had gotten control in 1870 would not have elected him county auditor. He was a tall, light complexioned, full-bearded, consumptive man. He died in the early part of the year 1873 and was buried at Old O'Brien, and George Rising was his executor, though his estate comprised no property and was dropped. He had married Phebe Morrow, later the wife of W. W. DeWitt, long a resident of Peterson. He was a man of industry beyond his strength. He was very attentive to details, but was simply a handy man for those looters, as these records show. He was rather a bookkeeper than a man with a policy. This was what was wanted. He evidently never inquired much about whys and wherefores. In the main he filled the office of county judge and auditor until 1872. His being a delicate, sickly man may perhaps partially account for some of his relative situations with those first men. They did the real business and he simply kept the record of what they did. He probably signed more warrants, bonds, coupons and orders and other vouchers in face value than any other man ever in the O'Brien county offices, in either the earlier or later years. However, unlike those other "seven," he was a real homesteader, but we do not get away from the fact that he was immediately on the ground the very day of this organization. He could not have signed all those warrants and vouchers without direct knowledge that bad business was on deck. He probably signed three-fourths of the warrants and other evidences of debt that made up the colossal county debt left as a legacy for the later settlers to worry with. He submitted to their manipulation and participated therein.

ANDREW J. EDWARDS, COUNTY AUDITOR.

Andrew J. Edwards became the second county auditor on January 1, 1872, at Old O'Brien, and served four years. He was born at Sidney, Ohio, March 20, 1813. His father, William Edwards, born in 1762, lived to be one hundred years old. The son was married in 1843. He left nine children, most of them raised in the county, George, Frank, Charles, Mary, Susan, Anna, Arminta, William and Frederick. He enlisted in July, 1861, at Sidney, Ohio, as captain of Company C, Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, First Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, and was discharged July 17,

1863. He homesteaded in O'Brien county on section 24, in Grant, in 1867. He was every inch a soldier, tall, straight as an arrow, long black beard, a man of distinctly military bearing. Mr. Edwards was auditor during four years in its darkest period, and individually passed through the roughest experiences of the pioneer, not merely in county affairs, but through the grasshopper scourge and all else endured by the homesteader.

His oft-repeated expression, "Dod blame it, boys," fully states the tumult of both record and actual life in which by this time the settlers were trying to take a hand, as otherwise herein shown, but in which during his term not much headway was made. That day indeed had not yet arrived. The one conspicuous item during his administration was the gopher scalp bounty, which was ordered by the board under Archibald Murray, and in the four years of Mr. Edwards' official term assumed proportions even unto a swindle and farce, comparing with those earlier bad items we have detailed. A bounty of five, then seven, then ten cents was offered. The real wrong lay in that, as it developed, it was not so much the ridding of gophers as the thought and fact that the people were dreadfully hard up incident to homesteading and baffling of grasshoppers, and everybody seemed to yield to the current hand-down for those years that county warrants being about the only money in circulation, each party wanted some share, and this placed them in easy access to all. The reader will judge the extent to which the homesteader had a partial excuse. It evidently got clear away from its legal intentions. They were brought in by the hundreds and many jibes were thrust at Captain Edwards in his dilemma in counting stale scalps, and (as was the joke) hides cut up into scalps. The people finally, as this debt question was discussed, insisted on its being abolished. The interest on this debt itself during his term, at ten per cent, was nearly twenty-five thousand dollars per year. They simply despaired at the outlook and kept right on issuing county warrants. It all resulted, however, at the election in 1875 of the people demanding a candidate for that office who would go into those matters and all matters relating to the troubles of the county, and to probe and ascertain its real conditions, which was accomplished in the candidacy of George W. Schee, his election, and his assumption of the office on January 1, 1876. The county questions solved out during his term will be found elsewhere, and also in his biography, as will likewise be found the continued questions in this office under the administration. The reader is also referred to the biography of J. L. E. Peck and other items hereon reciting the policies of his administration of the office of county auditor from 1880 to 1884.

THE COUNTY TREASURY AND ITS OFFICIALS.

In a general way we have divided the county affairs into two periods. We have recited the early debt and its attending results. These results did not end in a day. First, then, the period from the organization of the county up to January 1, 1884, at which time the people had practically solved these old matters and decided upon its policy of payment of the debt and had placed the county on a cash basis. These twenty-four years were indeed the troublous and vexatious years of the county. Second, the period from January 1, 1884, to the present time, or the prosperous period.

The following is a list of the county treasurers during this first twenty-four years: Hannibal H. Waterman, from February 6, 1860, to November 11, 1860; I. C. Furber, from November 11, 1860, to January 1, 1862; James W. Bosler, from January 1, 1862, to June 1, 1862; J. R. M. Cofer, from June 1, 1862, to March 2, 1863; David Carroll from March 2, 1863, to June 2, 1864; John L. McFarland, from June 2, 1864, to January 1, 1865; Archibald Murray, from January 1, 1865, to January 1, 1868; Chester W. Inman, from January 1, 1868, to January 1, 1870; Rouse B. Crego, from January 1, 1870, to February 25, 1871; John R. Pumphrey, from February 25, 1871, to January 1, 1874; J. C. Doling, from January 1, 1874, to January 1, 1876; Stephen Harris, from January 1, 1876, to January 1, 1878; T. J. Alexander, from January 1, 1878, to January 1, 1884.

During this first period the county had the old debt, the grasshoppers, the first openings of farms, pioneer incidentals, and individual debts galore to deal with. During this time also the whole east and south half of the county had but one store and one bank, and that bank with no capital. They were inadequate to meet the needed credits. The county treasurers had their troubles. It was about the one and only place where actual money existed. The county treasurers were all placed like unto the predicament of Clark Green in his store in the dishing out of his groceries. It needed a heart of flint to withstand the pitiful appeals to both storekeeper and county treasurer. It all created a perplexing problem.

Chester W. Inman, who was county treasurer from January 1, 1868, to January 1, 1870, was, after his term expired, cited before the board three times to make accounting by record resolution and suit was ordered. Rouse B. Crego, who was treasurer in 1870 and part of 1871, was addicted to drink. He bought four thousand dollars worth of horses, as was claimed, with the

public funds, shipped them to Sioux City, sold them and spent a lot of the money, being absent several weeks. The board, by resolution, declared the office vacant, and appointed John R. Pumphrey to the office, he being Crego's deputy. On Mr. Crego's return he brought suit in the courts to recover the office back, but the courts sustained the ouster. Mr. Pumphrey held the office until January 1, 1874, followed by J. C. Doling. Mr. Doling had no troubles and filled the office two years.

Stephen Harris was the deputy of Mr. Doling two years, and then was himself treasurer for two years. Mr. Harris held the treasurer's office during the four hardest years of the grasshopper period. These conditions brought discontent and discouragement with the people. At the close of Mr. Harris' term occurred one of the most exciting political fights ever in the county, between Mr. Harris and T. J. Alexander. Mr. Alexander was nominated in the convention against Mr. Harris by only one-seventh of a vote majority, and was elected at the polls by only seventeen majority.

CONTESTED ELECTION.

These close figures brought on an election contest in a special court between these two candidates. As provided by the statute, the court to hear and determine such contests is made up of three judges, one, the chairman of the board of supervisors, in this case B. F. McCormack. Each party under the statute selected one judge. Mr. Harris selected William E. Welch, another member of the board from Baker township, and Mr. Alexander selected J. C. Elliott, of Sheldon, the three comprising the court. Charles H. Allen, O. M. Barrett and D. A. W. Perkins acted as attorneys for Mr. Harris, and M. B. Davis and J. L. E. Peck for Mr. Alexander.

The facts developed that in Carroll township they had used a cigar box for a ballot box, as was often done in the early day. It was proved during the process of voting at the election that they could see the ballots through the cracks.

The attorneys for Mr. Alexander had procured the affidavits of practically every voter in the township who had voted for him to that effect, and the same voters were offered as witnesses at the trial to so testify. Evidence relating to the cigar box being used, and that the judge had taken it home to dinner was introduced.

A large crowd from all over the county was present, and the people were much excited. It lasted three days and its incidents and details centered around many other items than the office itself. It was objected that the

voters should not be allowed to divulge how they voted, and that it was intended that a vote was sacred and secret, not only with the individual but with the public, and that it was against public policy to allow it to be so divulged. The arguments on this question aroused much public sentiment. Two members of the court sustained these objections, the other member voting that in his judgment the evidence should be heard. At all events this incensed the crowd present, and the excitement was intense. The contest, in its hearing and arguments, was enlarged to include all the then public agitations.

This brought on one of the most dramatic scenes ever in the county. Frank Frisbee, of Sheldon, jumped out into the center of the floor in the court room and, in very emphatic and vigorous language, read the riot act to the court on all past matters and intimated strongly what the crowd might do. Many in the crowd on both sides were armed, and it seemed for several hours that physical violence would result, but fortunately it calmed down. The court adjourned for three days. It never, in fact, reconvened in the court room as a court. This item is cited as one of those stern pioneer occurrences where a public question was in effect decided in the public forum.

The evidence and trial simply "quit." William E. Welch and J. C. Elliott, two of the judges, met on December 1, 1877, and signed the order awarding the office to Mr. Alexander, as shown by the election book page 118. Mr. McCormack did not join. In all reality, B. F. McCormack, chairman of the board and one of the judges, was the real individual on trial. In effect he was a judge trying his own case. The issue simply hovered around the shoulders of the two candidates.

Stephen Harris was a highly educated man and had been county superintendent of schools. He at once engaged as principal of the Primghar high school, which position he held for several years. He later organized and became cashier of the Farmers Bank of Paullina, which he conducted for many years and handed down to its present cashier, George W. Harris, his son. Stephen Harris was one of those men who in the years built up instead of down.

T. J. Alexander became county treasurer January 1, 1878, with the highest hopes and best wishes. Regrettable as it may seem, and which later became an admitted fact, Mr. Alexander became short in his public funds in the sum of about eleven thousand dollars. The amount was later made up and the county lost nothing. The office was not yet on a banking basis. Sad as it may be to record, we must add the further fact of the pathetic death of his wife, Mrs. Martha Alexander, who had withstood the hard pio-

neering of O'Brien county, only to meet her fate in a gasoline explosion, from a stove, burning her so badly that she died the same day. On that very day they were to move into the later and modern home they had provided for old age.

A SECOND PERIOD OF AUDITORS AND TREASURERS.

We will now notice the second period referred to, from January 1, 1884, to the present time, and contrast situations. We have treated the auditor's and treasurer's offices together as, with the board of supervisors, constituting the county government. The people were getting themselves loose from many of their troubles. The investigation into the whole back matters of the county by George W. Schee was commenced January 1, 1876. The policies of that office then decidedly changed. The whole county was solving itself out. The reader is referred to the several sundry items and articles showing the gradual uplift of the county. It will be a pleasure to the reader to realize the gradual changed conditions in the county generally. The following is a list of the county treasurers since January 1, 1884: Frank N. Derby, six years, from January 1, 1884, to January 1, 1890; Henry Rerick, six years, from January 1, 1890, to January 1, 1896; Chriss R. West, two years, from January 1, 1896, to January 1, 1898; Perry A. Edington, two years, from January 1, 1898, to January 1, 1900; Lester T. Aldinger, four years, from January 1, 1900, to January 1, 1904; Alex Stewart, five years, from January 1, 1904, to January 1, 1909; Lester T. Aldinger, four years, from January 1, 1909, to January 1, 1913; Harry C. May, present incumbent, from January 1, 1913.

COUNTY TREASURY ON A BANKING BASIS.

Henry Rerick, who became county treasurer January 1, 1890, was the first treasurer to put this office and its large funds on a strictly banking basis in its methods of business, and which has been firmly sustained by each of the treasurers since. The reader can see why former treasurers were not able to so place it prior to this time. The county during all that first twenty-four years, in a greater or less degree, as the people got control, was in the throes and dregs following the great debt and its attendant mischiefs. Small partial payments on the multitude of outstanding warrants and bond coupons added much to the troubles of those early treasurers. Add to this the hard times and the grasshopper scourge referred to, and still added were the individual debts of the people, which were harrassing and which all mingled

themselves with public affairs. It permeated all avenues, county, town, township and individual. But let us keep in mind all the time that O'Brien county kept on correcting her situations, on these several troublous lines, until it now reached a point where it could be said that they were no longer repeated. Relating to the policies of the county during the terms of J. L. E. Peck and George W. Schee, as connected with the board and public matters, the reader is referred to articles under sundry other chapters and to the biographies of each. Having thus been gone into fully they need not be here repeated.

CHARLES H. WINTERBLE, COUNTY AUDITOR.

Charles H. Winterble became deputy auditor in 1886 under T. J. Alexander. Inasmuch as Mr. Alexander was also county treasurer, we will make his items cover both offices, and which have been dwelt upon in various articles. Mr. Alexander removed to Sutherland, to engage in the mercantile business, in the middle of his term, and hence Mr. Winterble became virtually county auditor at that time and was himself continued as auditor from January 1, 1888, until January 1, 1895. Many of the main policies related to the resumption on a cash basis and the old debt, and its rebonding of 1881 and then reduction of the interest from the prior ten to seven per cent, later to six and five and finally to four and one-half, and many of these questions had been settled. But they were not all settled and could not be settled in a day. It was during Mr. Winterble's term that the debt was reduced to and a rebonding had of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars at six per cent. The present court house was built just at the time in 1886 that he became deputy auditor. His long term, however, may be said to have been among the building years that had now gotten under full headway. During his term the county paid off all the way from five to ten thousand dollars per year, and which was continued until now (1914) there is no debt of any description against the county. While he was deputy and under Mr. Alexander's term the county, on October 19, 1887, purchased the half section of land of the Milwaukee road for a county home at four dollars per acre. The board, with a larger levy to draw on, began to advance into the better grade of bridges, building of culverts, making of roads, and all public improvements. It was during these four terms of county management under Mr. Schee, J. L. E. Peck, T. J. Alexander and Mr. Winterble that the county was gradually looking up and out into a greater O'Brien county. During these years and later on and now, this office has become largely administra-

tive rather than tumultuous, though this emerging from these old matters of necessity was a growth.

OTHER COUNTY AUDITORS.

Its early troubles mainly ended as we have recited; it has remained for the succeeding county auditors, with the boards of supervisors and other public officials, to pursue this administrative routine in large part. The list of those auditors and their terms are given above, namely, John T. Conn, Frank C. Wheaton, John P. Bossert and now Joseph B. Stamp. When we use this term administrative, it means largely the same proposition in various forms we have heretofore mentioned, relating to the treasurer's office, namely, that in the first twenty-four years practically all the county treasurers had serious troubles with funds, and in the later thirty years not a shortage has occurred. This same substantial cleaning up, this same systematic and business-like method has developed in all official acts in the county. Its early troubles have been of benefit and held up as a warning, turning attention of the people to a rightful and definite demand for a strict accounting on all lines of public affairs. It was not done in a year. Indeed, as we have seen, those tumults carried down sundry men of better and good intentions. This has now become so generally accepted and established that we doubt if any county in the state in its public affairs as well as its general public business and merchandising and trade is based on any higher moral standard than now in this county in all its departments. This does not mean that its present officials have or need no policies. But it does mean that those policies are now policies of growth and business and not of tumult. In all its departments, whether public, private, farming, merchandising, modes of living or the general welfare, all are up to the modern ideals of the best situations. The county speaks out its own uplift. The public business is now largely routine and administrative. It means that we have reached the period of the regular and the better of everything, a period of independence on the part of the people of the county generally and that they have got out and away from the debt and judgment-fearing period. It has reached the period of high-grade farming, instead of simply doing what they could. It all means better roads, modern culverts, bridges, houses, barns, fences, school buildings, clothes, comfortable conditions, better grades of stock, safer and sounder business, the certain instead of the uncertain.

COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE.

Miss Bessie J. Beers is the present county recorder and the only lady ever holding that office in the county. This office is almost strictly routine, in the recording and indexing of the sundry instruments filed for record. The recorder does have, however, a few other duties, one, to examine the abstracts of title to town plats filed and to pass upon their sufficiency, becoming a sort of quasi judicial duty. The recorder, with the clerk of courts and county auditor, draws the grand and petit juries. The book of original entries of homesteads certified and made up at the United States land office at Des Moines is kept in this office.

The recorder's office in O'Brien county now contains a little over three hundred record books, of about six hundred and forty pages each, or, in other words, there have been recorded since the organization of the county about one hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand instruments of all kinds. The following records are found in this office:

Indexes of Land Deeds.....	17	Corporation Records	2
Indexes of Mortgages.....	15	Physicians' Record	1
Indexes Town Lot Deeds.....	7	Farm Names Record.....	1
Indexes Town Lot Mortgages....	6	Affidavits and Powers of Attorney	1
Indexes Chattel Mortgages.....	16	School Fund Mortgage Records..	3
Land Deed Records	45	Town Plat Record.....	1
Land Mortgage Records.....	59	Miscellaneous Records.....	3
Town Lot Deed Records.....	26	Other Records.....	20
Town Lot Mortgage Records....	17		—
Chattel Mortgage Records.....	66	Total	307
Original Entry Record	1		

The deeds that were recorded on O'Brien county lands prior to the organization of the county in 1860, were copied and certified to by John P. Allison, county judge of Woodbury county, to which it had belonged, on July 21, 1860. The first deed was recorded in May, 1857, Andrew M. Hunt to Elijah Bent. Samuel H. Cassaday was county recorder of Woodbury in 1857 and Charles E. Hedges for 1858-59-60.

The following is a list of the county recorders and their terms: Hannibal H. Waterman, February 6, 1860, to November 11, 1860; I. C. Furber, November 11, 1860, to January 1, 1862; James W. Bosler, January 1, 1862,

to June 1, 1862; J. R. M. Cofer, June 1, 1862, to March 2, 1863; David Carroll, March 2, 1863, to June 2, 1864; John L. McFarland, June 2, 1864, to January 1, 1865.

Each of the following officials of this office served full calendar years thereafter: Archibald Murray, 1865-1870; McAllen Green, 1871-1872; A. J. Brock, 1873-1876; C. Longshore, 1877-1878; J. Hinshaw, 1879-1880; Hubert Sprague, 1881-1882; William H. Noyes, 1883-1886; Isaac Clements, 1887-1890; Frank D. Mitchell, 1891-1894; Frank L. Herrick, 1895-1898; Isaac L. Rerick, 1899-1902; James S. Beers, 1903-1906; William H. Brown, 1907-1910; Bessie J. Beers, 1911—.

COUNTY SURVEYORS.

The county surveyor's office was much more in importance in the early than in the later years. This was true from the fact that the early homesteaders had to locate their claims, their lines and their corners. School sites were required to be measured off, and roads established and squared up. This was all practically completed in 1897, J. B. Frisbee served for about six years from 1898. From this time there was practically no surveyor, so little business was there to be done and parties elected did not qualify. The following is the list: Archibald Murray, 1860-1861; L. McClellan, 1862-1867; D. W. Inman, 1868-1869; J. F. Schofield, 1870-1871; A. J. Brock, 1872-1876; W. H. Riddell, 1877; Ed. A. Smith, 1878-1879; Chas. M. Griffith, 1880-1881; Jesse A. Smith, 1882-1890; Frank E. Wade, 1891-1897; J. B. Frisbee, 1898-1903.

MEMBERS OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

We give below the names of the several men who have served as members of the several boards of supervisors, giving them in the order of their elections, as near as may be, and separating them in the decades. Several of the men below given have served at different periods, and on different boards, but will give below the decade they first became a member.

1860-1870—John H. Cofer, I. C. Furber, D. Clark, Moses Lewis, John L. McFarland, John Moore, Asa Tyler, Daniel W. Inman, Rouse B. Crego, and W. H. Baker.

1870-1880—Chester W. Inman, John W. Kelly, Hannibal H. Waterman, Obediah Higbe, Isaac L. Rerick, T. J. Fields, B. F. McCormack, Z. P. Freeman, Harley Day, John M. Royer, H. E. Hoagland, William E. Welch, Benjamin Jones, Charles F. Albright, Warren Walker, John F. Burroughs.

William W. Johnson, Joseph Rowland, Ralph Dodge, Thomas Holmes, William Oliver, Ezra M. Brady, Jacob H. Wolf, Emanuel Kindig.

1880-1890—George Hakeman, John L. Kinney, Daniel M. Sheldon, Henry Hoerman, W. W. Reynolds, Oliver M. Shonkwiler, John W. Gaunt, J. E. Wheelock, George O. Wheeler, J. A. Warner and H. P. Scott.

1890-1900—John Bowley, Ed C. Parker, John Warnke, James K. McAndrew, John Rhodes, Henry Appledorn, Charles Youde, John Warnke, Henry J. Merry and William Klein.

1900-1910—Joseph Shinski, D. M. Norton, Tom E. Mann, John Sanders, E. H. McClellan, George J. Smith, Theodore Zimmerman, C. L. Rockwell and Peter Swanson.

1910-1914—W. C. Jackson, M. F. McNutt, Ralph Jordan and William Strampe.

PRESENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

Peter Swenson, chairman, M. F. McNutt, W. C. Jackson, Ralph C. Jordan and William Strampe.

COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

The following is a list of the county attorneys who have served since the creation of that office January 1, 1887: James B. Dunn, 1887-1892; John T. Conn, 1893-1894; D. A. W. Perkins, 1895-1896; C. A. Babcock, 1897-1898; A. J. Walsmith, 1899-1902; Joe Morton, 1903-1906; Roscoe J. Locke, 1906.

OLD AND NEW BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS.

Reforms did not come in a day. It was hard to remove a whole board with elections three years apart. One member went out for re-election with the bold argument, "See here, I've robbed this county all I need to. Put in a new man and you will have to do it all over again. I can do this county a lot of good." And he showed them how. The change came, cog by cog. Boldness doth disarm in meantime, however. Bills and bills became harder to get passed. A new set of remarks began to be heard. Some one would sing out:

"The gopher scalp days are over,
Good by, Old Bridges, good by,
Good by."

or some one would snap out snarlingly: "Ralph Dodge will cut your bill down," or "Uncle Jaky is on the board," this time referring to Uncle Jacob H. Wolf, a new member. Some one else would say, "Old honest John L. Kinney, of Sheldon, can see through that bill with his blind eye." Or the expression would be used when a bill would be rejected that, "the stuff's off." Or it would be Deputy Clerk Lon F. Derby, who would rip out a string of profanity reaching clear around the court house, in righteous condemnation of the earlier and later humbugs. Mr. Derby's honest and blunt profanity put backbone into more than one item.

But O'Brien county has indeed been fortunate in its boards of supervisors since it once got onto its feet from the old doings. For instance, when Daniel M. Sheldon, of Sutherland, and William W. (Bill) Johnson, an old homesteader, and Ben Jones, of Sheldon, got onto the board they were referred to as the "Triumvirate of Stability." It was remarked of Ezra M. Brady when on the board, "That when he sat down on those old bad things, that he sat down two hundred forty hard," which was his weight. Thomas Holmes was dubbed "Honest Tom" Holmes.

B. F. McCormack still on the board, however, and not yet ready to give up the ghost on behalf of his "old regime," as he proudly called it, would sarcastically recite, with a punctuation point on each word, "Boys, behold, the old things have passed away, and all things have become new"; "we must fulfill our election pledges to the dear cattle, the people": "I've reformed and am now reforming this board."

But finally O'Brien county got onto its feet, and was actually walking around with a lantern, looking for an honest man and hunting for a day of prosperity. The morning light was breaking. An acre of blue sky had appeared above the horizon. A star in the east had arisen. The wise men were taking action, and bringing gifts of frankincense and myrrh to the child O'Brien county.

It would extend this item too long to review the above long list of members of the boards of supervisors in detail. We can only illustrate. The very fact of the county being in and moving out of such throes of badness, seemed to spur on each board and member, as it did likewise the people, to watchfulness. We give a full list of the members of the several boards, and must content ourselves with allowing the general mass of good results to serve as the monument to these several new members and new boards of supervisors clear down to date.

COUNTY FARM AND COUNTY HOME BUILDING.

On June 25, 1913, occurred the dedication of the county home building. On October 19, 1887, the board of supervisors made the payment of principal and interest in the sum of one thousand four hundred and ninety-two dollars and seventy cents to secure a deed to the half section of land they had purchased at four dollars per acre, namely, the north half of section 5, township 95, range 40, Highland township, located one and one-half miles east of Pringhar, for a county home. It was purchased of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, and was a very fortunate purchase. Today the land itself is worth fifty thousand dollars, not considering the new modern, fireproof, brick building built in 1913, at a cost of twenty-five thousand dollars.

When purchased the land was raw prairie. Soon afterwards a fine grove of ten acres was planted. Unlike the older homestead groves, consisting and limited to mainly cottonwood, maple and willow, the county thus later was not thus hampered, and succeeded in securing a great variety of all classes of hardy and ornamental trees. At the dedication this grove had just reached its fine shade condition in size of trees. A large open space of about two acres was left for a lawn, which slopes from the front of the new home building on a fine proportionate grade. This tract is one of the finest half sections in the county.

In comparison with other articles herein relating to the actual homes or shacks and troubles of the decade in the seventies, it all seems like a fairy tale, but nevertheless true and refreshing to pen the true fact that in 1913 O'Brien county erected a county home for God's unfortunate, and that, too, without a levy for the purpose. It was built from surplus funds that had accumulated from our new prosperities.

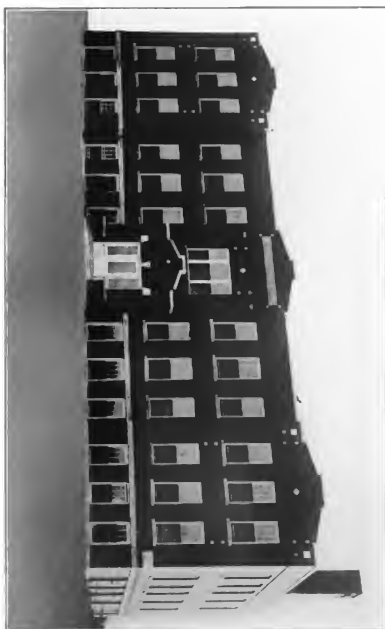
It is modern in every particular. We but bespeak the pride of the county and we add the high-grade humanity of its people, when we say that it is among the finest in the state. Like all other modernisms, the methods of caring for the poor have developed and been studied out on practical lines. Before beginning its construction, the members of the board, Peter Swenson, chairman, Ralph C. Jordan, W. C. Jackson, William Strampe and M. F. McNutt, went themselves as committees and with architects to visit other counties lately building such structures, to study the most approved methods. The outer wall is of matt face, hydraulic pressure brick made at St. Paul, Minnesota, trimmed with Bedford stone, and is forty-eight by ninety feet in size, with two full stories and basement. The stairs, walls and floors are

constructed of reinforced concrete. The rooms and departments are in proportion to the needs in the care of such unfortunates.

The main contract for the building itself was let to Lauritzen & Wasson, of Waterloo. The heating plant was put in by Swanson & Betzworth, of Cherokee. The county at this time has thirty-four patients in the state hospital at Cherokee, which is about the average for ten years last past. It is the present thought of the board that of this number the milder part can be the better cared for in this county home, and many have been accordingly removed.

It seemed a curious coincidence or fact that the greatest gathering during the year 1913 in the county, and at the climax in prosperity in its fifty-eight years of history should occur in its dedication of a county home, costing twenty-five thousand dollars for the future unfortunate. The building then was about ten feet above ground. It was a model day. It was estimated there were from three to four thousand people present. In number, about four hundred automobiles passed the gate, besides more than as many more other vehicles. It was a representative gathering from all over the county, with old homesteaders and old soldiers in evidence, though the number is fast dwindling. The crowd were passing judgment on all sides that they had discovered the ideal spot for future picnics and gatherings in that beautiful ten-acre grove.

William S. Armstrong acted as president of the day. These stately automobiles, and in such numbers, fit for the kings, and a twenty-five-thousand-dollar county home, located on a tract of land itself worth fifty thousand dollars, in the dignified presence of three court judges, Scott M. Ladd, judge of the supreme court of Iowa for now eighteen years, and ten years as judge of the district court; Judge William D. Boies, of the present district court, each honored products and early settlers of our own O'Brien county, and also Judge William Hutchison, of the district court, the honored son of Sioux county on the west, who has presided over the district courts of the county for eighteen years, was indeed a dramatic scene in comparison with the shack shanties and other early situations of which we have written. County Auditor Joseph B. Stamp and Sheriff Henry W. Geister acted as marshals and kept the crowds and automobiles organized and moving without an injury. Judge Scott M. Ladd laid the corner stone, as was declared by the chairman of the day, judicially and legally. The three addresses were dignified and appropriate, Judge Ladd dwelling in the reminiscent, Judge Boies in a comparison of the agricultural conditions and developments, and Judge Hutchinson on "The Home." Rev. Charles Richards, of Sutherland, gave the invocation.



O'BRIEN COUNTY HOME

Rev. Andrews, of Pringhar, led the large chorus, and Rev. P. E. Wells, of Sanborn, pronounced the benediction. A very feeling letter was read, written by Rev. Father James McCormack, of the Catholic church of Sheldon, who could not be present. It was a dignified occasion. It was not merely a gathering. It was a milestone, an historic event in the county.

LOOKING FORWARD.

It is the aim of the present board of supervisors that this county home and farm will develop into more than a mere *place*, where are kept the unfortunate, yes, more than a place where mere farming is done. This higher aim is to make it a model experiment farm, an actual farm, a farm that will test out and become what all farms should be, a profitable, self-supporting institution. Yes, even still more, to make it a sort of experiment station on farm products and crops—in brief, to make it county wide, and to the extent that twenty-four miles wide of an agricultural country can make it, and to the full extent that it can be made, to the people of the county, what the Ames Agricultural College and farm is to the state, an educational center, for farming and agricultural purposes. This will work a double purpose, even to the unfortunates, both a care and home for them, pointing out to them an uplift idea, an idea of independence instead of dependence. Also, as stated, to make it a farm testing center in which the people will look for suggestions. All this is but making its start, but, as one of the members of the board remarked, that he believed that with future good management, it could also be made self supporting, a farm that would pay within itself.

PLATTED BY A LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT.

Inasmuch as this farm will for all time be required to accommodate from thirty to fifty inmates (fifty being its capacity), together with its managers and help, it was foresight to have its buildings and equipments and grounds planned systematically by a landscape architect for practical use in the various functions both for the care of the unfortunates and with the further idea of an experimental farm and center of an agricultural education. This the present board, composed of Peter Swenson, chairman, and M. F. McNutt, Ralph C. Jordan, W. C. Jackson and William Strampe, practical farmers and grainmen, have done. It was important that this should be done in advance, to the end that future expenditures would be made to solve it out. They therefore employed Paul Scherbe, landscape architect at Waterloo. He

accordingly made full plans and specifications of the grounds, including main building, barns, groves, cattle sheds, sheep sheds, hog houses, paddocks, silos, horse and cattle yards, driveways, service lawn, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, ice house, cribs, granaries, gardens, flower beds, ornamental trees, electric lighting plant, septic tank, with full sewerage plant as complete as in a town, water works, similar to the systematic equipments with the main buildings, namely of two wards on the first floor for the poor, each accommodating about twelve, with individual rooms for the emergency sick, and two like wards on the second floor for the mild insane to be brought from Cherokee. In the basement we find a large kitchen, laundry, heating plant and electric light plant, with all modern equipments in the way of sanitary beds, bathrooms, lavatories, toilets, elevator to carry up supplies, and all else needed. The floors and stairways being solid concrete cement, make this building practically fireproof. All these in their relative proportions and sizes as is believed will solve itself out practically. In solving this out thus far, the members of the board and architect have visited and studied similar plans in other counties recently solving out similar problems in the modern county homes and farms.

On the line of this definite purpose from two standpoints, the board of supervisors have employed A. W. McGuire, to be known as the steward of the O'Brien county home and farm, and his wife, Mrs. Anna McGuire, as matron. Mr. and Mrs. McGuire have had three years' experience under Dr. M. N. Volding, superintendent of the Cherokee State Hospital, and a still prior experience at the State Hospital at Independence, which speaks their equipment for this service. Mr. McGuire is also a practical stockman and farmer. His brother has for several years had the management of the county home and farm at Mason City, in Cerro Gordo county, where they have made the farm and home practically self supporting, aided by the labors of the several sundry inmates. It is anticipated that at least within a few years this farm will do likewise.

The large public gathering of those four thousand people on June 25, 1913, at the dedication of this home building, has already enlisted the sentiments of the people to this idea of the board that this county home and farm is the people's farm and can be made a common meeting ground for practical farm education along many lines, as well as a fine place for public gatherings similar to the dedicatory services and discussions.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING PLANT.

One unusual incident relating to the improvements at the county home farm is worthy of mention. Peter Swenson, chairman of the board, has personally donated the sum of one thousand dollars for the installment of the electric lighting plant and equipments. This will light up not only the county home building itself, but also the many barns and other buildings and yards. This is all run by a twelve-horse-power Fairbanks & Morse engine, and equipped with proportionate dynamos, switch board and lighting fixtures. It is unusual and commendable in this, that it is the very opposite of graft. It is the unusual case of a public official adding to the public funds, and this in a sum equal to what Mr. Swenson has received for his labors for several years of his service.

OTHER COUNTY IMPROVEMENTS AND LARGE PROBLEMS.

The advance methods of farming, the now necessary automobile, the public safety and other items have, throughout the county, opened up many new and larger problems for county officials to grapple with. The Legislature of the state has taken hold with additional requirements. The present board, both in fulfillment of the law and likewise as a county need, has co-operated on all lines of road and bridge building, drainage and other work. The board is carrying this out in steel and concrete bridges and culverts, road grading and drainage. These steel bridges are constructed with backing and floors of concrete. Thus far five of these steel and concrete bridges have been built in Chairman Peter Swenson's district, seven in the district of member Ralph C. Jordan, fourteen in that of M. F. McNutt, four in that of William Strampe and four in that of W. C. Jackson, with one additional permanent bridge known as a slab bridge. Permanent concrete steel and concrete culverts to the number of about eighty have been built, distributed over the county, each with a twenty-foot roadway. The road grading has been carried out on an equal scale. The county has purchased several mammoth modern graders and engines, and has operated them in sundry places. The county has adopted a system of permanent roads, under the later statutes, connecting with like roads in other counties and working to the state-wide contemplation of roadways. We have passed into the permanent building age. We probably will pass through some experiments and perhaps some misfits, but in a general way the roads and bridges and other improvements will move on to the solid and substantial. It all spells the word "permanence."

All this is adding much to the numbers of records and details of the county workshop, the office of the county auditor, under the present management of the board and of its present efficient auditor, J. B. Stamp. The details of records carrying out these plans and specifications of all this permanent upbuilding are carried out in this office.

The writer has lived through all the years of the shack, the pioneer, the haytwister, the grasshopper, angling roads on the prairie, prairie fires, county debts and private debts and early troubles, and it is with much satisfaction that he now lives in this building age. After recording these many early troubles, it certainly gives good cheer and causes the risibilities and cheerier feelings to bubble up through the human heart to write of these better things.

The writer himself conducted this county auditor's office for four years, in the earlier court house, and has transacted hundreds of business items each year and each month in the present frame court house. It would have been much of a satisfaction to the writer could he have had the opportunity to have described in this history the future and final capitol and court house building, which, of necessity, must within a very few years be built in all its modern proportions. Its necessity will solve its own building. The present court house is but a wooden frame, though well provided with modern furniture within, and is the opposite of being fire proof. To realize that the thousands of records of deeds and title papers, covering every tract of land and every town lot and home in the county, and on which stand the homes and roofs that cover our heads, are thus at stake and what a burning of the public records would mean to every citizen in the county, causes us to pause and think and wish still more that we could in this history write up a description of that final court house. But it being the people's building and the people's public home for their records so vital to them, they will vote for it in good time.

In closing this chapter on County Government we may well lift up our eyes in visions and wonderment as to what fifty years will solve out in this wealthy county in its problems of public improvements and county government and management.



THE OLD LOG COURT HOUSE

CHAPTER VII.

THE COURT HOUSES OF O'BRIEN COUNTY.

OLD LOG COURT HOUSE.

The first, or old log court house, was built on the farm of Hannibal House Waterman, on the northeast quarter of section 26, by Archibald Murray in the early part of 1860, and after the election of February 6, 1860, which organized the county. But this log court house was not the only county building at Old O'Brien. There were several offices or buildings used. For instance, to start with, the election which so organized the county was held in the private residence of Mr. Waterman. In that sense his farm house was the first county building or court house.

Archibald Murray was at once on the job in court house building. He built or supervised it. It all run along for months, even the building of a moderate, usual-sized cabin log house. The record made about it all is meager.

Negotiations were had with Mr. Waterman to purchase forty acres of his land for a county seat. They finally paid Mr. Tiffey two thousand dollars for forty acres from him, and at a time when land at best was not worth five dollars an acre. This probably explains why Mr. Waterman did not sell his land. Mr. Tiffey was one of the powers that be. Mr. Waterman was not. Mr. Waterman was trying to farm, and they were farming the county.

This old log court house was moved down from Mr. Waterman's place, about three-quarters of a mile to the forty acres purchased of Henry C. Tiffey, namely, the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 36, in Waterman township. Mr. Tiffey made the deed June 25, 1861, but did not draw his warrant until September 2, 1861.

On August 28, 1861, the Hon. A. W. Hubbard, judge of the district court, held a term of court at Old O'Brien and appointed Lemuel Parkhurst, of Cherokee county, Edward Smeltzer, of Clay county, and James Gleason, of Buena Vista county, to select the county seat. They located it as stated. (Judge Hubbard was the father of the late Congressman Elbert H. Hubbard, who died a congressman in 1912.) We will give the exact wording of the record relating to these county buildings:

"Office of the County Judge.

"October 20, 1860.

"O'Brien county, by its judge, has this day entered into a contract with James W. Bosler to build an office at the county seat, and to be of good material. Size not more than eighteen feet square, and to be finished by the first day of May, 1862, for which he shall receive the sum of two thousand dollars, which amount the court now issues on order to the treasurer.

"I. C. FURBER,

"County Judge."

"Office of the County Judge.

"November 5, 1860.

"Ordered that Henry C. Tiffey be allowed the sum of fifteen hundred dollars to build an office for the district clerk, at the county seat; said office to be built in connection with the office of treasurer and recorder.

"I. C. FURBER,

"County Judge."

"Office of the County Judge.

"November 30, 1860.

"Ordered that A. Murray and I. C. Furber be allowed the sum of three hundred dollars for building temporary office for the county judge and district clerk, and that same be paid.

"I. C. FURBER,

"County Judge."

"September 21, 1861.

"Archibald Murray allowed \$2,000 for building county building.

"Henry C. Tiffey allowed \$2,000 for forty acres land."

"October 17, 1865.

"Charles C. Smeltzer allowed \$3,000 for services as attorney for services rendered during the year 1860."

"September 21, 1861.

"I. C. Furber, for office rent.....	\$ 300.00
"J. H. Cofer, wood furnished offices.....	500.00
"James H. Bosler, wood furnished office.....	200.00
"Henry C. Tiffey, office rent.....	300.00
"A. Murray, office rent.....	300.00

Total office rent -----\$1,600.00"

Above mainly relates to the old court house or rentals.

It is quite impossible to determine from the record what the above \$2,000 for county building is for, whether to finish up the log building, or whether to tear it down and remove it from Mr. Waterman's farm or not.

It is one curious fact that up to November 30, 1860, that the bills allowed were all small and ordinary bills, being one, the largest, for \$100, then one for \$50, one for \$32, and the balance below \$20, out of forty bills allowed up to that time. But after that it commenced with these court buildings and all else.

The temporary office spoken of was none other than the old log court house. Just how much business was actually transacted in that building is hard to determine. A bill had been allowed Charles C. Smeltzer, an attorney at Fort Dodge, for \$27.50 on April 7, 1860, for county books, which was evidently the county and bridge warrant books, and which, owing to the distance to Fort Dodge and getting them printed, did not get around until along in the fall. These first forty warrants or small ones were issued on common blank paper, but when it came to issuing warrants in the large sums, which they were now ready to commence issuing, they wanted a printed warrant book, as the warrants could not well be cashed or sold to purchasers unless they were printed in good form. This accounts for the fact that this old log court house was not paid for until November 30, 1860.

In the meantime, the other offices were under way. From the above it will be seen that four items were paid on court houses, namely, three items of \$300, \$1,500 and \$2,000, in the fall of 1860, and an additional \$2,000 September 2, 1861, to A. Murray. The record recites that the two other buildings than the log court house were built "in connection" with each other. This so that when done they were one building in result.

At all events, this old log court house was soon needed for a school house and a little later on was used as a residence by Moses Lewis and family, still later by A. L. Bostwick and R. G. Allen as a blacksmith shop, and still later by Clark and Lem Green as a stable. As nearly as can be determined, this log building did service as a county building at intervals only. The above additional \$2,000 allowed A. Murray September 2, 1861, for a building was probably for tearing down the log building and removing it to Old O'Brien, which was done; indeed, the log building could not well be removed as a whole bodily. The above office rents were also allowed. Just why they needed so much office rent in addition to the palatial log court house would be impossible to determine from the records, but outside facts indicate that during these interims of providing school house and buildings of these other parts of offices, that these respective gentry, Tiffey, Murray

and Furber, took their few books from their offices to their homes and then allowed themselves \$300 each for office rent for same. At all events, it all rounded up in O'Brien county footing the bills at both ends of the line.

ANOTHER COURT HOUSE IN OLD O'BRIEN IN 1870.

But all this did not end the building of county buildings at Old O'Brien. The records are meager. It cannot even be determined how much it cost. Archibald Murray built it, and when it was done he lived in one end of it with his family and had his auditor's office in the other. The record does not even make allowance of bills for same. The record calls it a court house. However, at another session the board had given Mr. Murray, as auditor, authority to issue warrants on all indebtedness, which accounts for the meagerness of the record. We will give the several motions made. It is evident that part of the discussion before the board related to trying to move it and repair it and get along with the old one. Under that authority given the stub book would be the only record. The following is the record:

"September 6, 1869.—Motion carried that job be let to lowest bidder to move the court house to the center of the square and repair and plaster same in good condition, and to do all other work to make it comfortable."

"November 8, 1869.—Motion carried that the resolution of moving the court house to the public square be rescinded."

"November 8, 1869.—Motion carried that the court house be moved from the present site out of the road on a line fronting south."

"November 8, 1869.—Motion carried that the auditor be empowered to procure a lease from Rouse B. Crego to put the court house on to use as long as the county uses the building for public use."

"January 18, 1870.—Bond of J. G. Parker accepted and with contract on office or court house approved."

"December 20, 1869.—A. Murray allowed \$150 for office rent."

"July 20, 1870.—Motion carried that the court house be accepted as completed."

Whatever was left of the court house was, on moving to Pringhar, sold to A. J. Edwards for forty dollars.

We here call attention to the contract in rentals and buildings as above set forth with the building in 1887 of the present wooden court house. While it is not an up-to-date court house, it, with everything connected, was built for six thousand dollars, and that the people of Pringhar contributed all

hauling from Sanborn to Pringhar of material free of cost to the county. The county was later looking up to better conditions. It could not be built today, with its vaults, for the money expended.

We have woven into these various subjects items relating to other questions, to show conditions. The above and other items given of old matters are but samples of many other situations that could be given in detail, but to do so would extend this history to much too great length. We might also mention here, that Archibald Murray and Rouse B. Crego, much mentioned herein, were both badly addicted to intoxicating liquors, which may explain many things in a degree.

THE SECOND COURT HOUSE, BUILT AT PRINGHAR IN 1874.

The second court house of the county was built by Stewart & Healy at a cost of two thousand dollars. This unless you count those several buildings at Old O'Brien each a court house. The contract was dated February 2, 1874, and the building was completed and finally paid for April 6, 1874, and shortly afterward occupied. Its size was about thirty-five feet square. It had four offices below, of about equal size, with a small hall eight feet wide, which left the officers well cramped as can be seen. A stairway on the outside led to the court room, through a small ante room.

Two large iron safes, perhaps fire proof, were purchased of the D. S. Covert Safe Company, Chicago, at a cost of two thousand seven hundred dollars and shipped to Sheldon. George J. Hill and A. P. McLaren were awarded a contract to haul them down to Pringhar for three hundred dollars in warrants. We mention these prices as showing the handicap even up to this date on the cost of everything measured in warrants at thirty to forty cents.

While the election to move the county seat to Pringhar was held November 11, 1872, it was not until April 29, 1873, that the then board, B. F. McCormack and Chester W. Inman (third place vacant), passed a resolution that the county officers remove the records as soon as practicable. A few days after this, Capt. A. J. Edwards, county auditor, himself hauled the first load, being his auditor's records, and received ten dollars for it or equal to about three dollars, a natural day's work. A few weeks later John F. Hollibaugh hauled two more loads and in June brought the balance of the records and received twenty dollars in warrants for it.

PAINE'S STORE AND INTERIM COURT HOUSE.

We do not enumerate Paine's store as a distinct court house, as it was but a rented building. Mr. Paine had run a store in it for four years in Highland township. In May, 1874, it was leased to the county by John Pumphrey, who owned it, for five months for eighty dollars cash. Later on in the year he and W. C. Green, who had bought an interest in it later, leased it to the county for one year for six hundred dollars paid in advance. It stood on the block north of the public square. Here the first court was held in 1873. This Paine's store building housed the officials and records until April 6, 1874, when the new court house was ready. This Paine store court house was bought by Frank Teabout and moved to Sanborn in 1878 and used by him as a store house in connection with his merchandising there.

Prior to this actual building in 1874 the board had for a year wrestled with the question with many resolutions and rescindings of same. It was first ordered that sealed bids be received for a building not to exceed five thousand dollars, but that was abandoned for the lesser building. This court house was used until the summer of 1886, when it was sold for a residence now on Slocum, Turner and Armstrong's addition, in which year the third court house was built. Three exciting items in the county took place in this court house named elsewhere, namely, the exciting contest between Sheldon and Pringhar on the county seat in 1879, the county treasurer's contest between Alexander and Harris in 1877, and the county seat raid in 1882.

THIRD AND PRESENT COURT HOUSE, BUILT IN 1887.

The present court house, third in number in the county, was built in 1887 by Green Brothers (Lem C. Green and M. D. Green, brothers of Clark Green), under contract dated July 9, 1887, for the sum of six thousand dollars. It was originally fifty by fifty-four in size. At the November term of court for 1886 the grand jury, composed of George Hakeman, David Fife, J. W. Coleman, W. B. Webster, Ira Waterman, G. S. Morean, Robert Cragg, W. S. Castledine, George T. Wellman, J. A. Glenn, Charles I. Nelson, Fred Frisbee, T. J. Irutret, J. M. Vincent and W. A. Wasson, filed a very severe report condemning the court house as not being a safe place for the public records and the jail as unfit for prisoners. In fact, as the resolution of the board later recited, the grand juries for eight years at various sessions had condemned the jail, and during the year 1887 at each session repeated this condemnation. On January 3, 1887, the board, then composed of W. W.

Reynolds, chairman, J. W. Gaunt, Henry Hoerman, O. M. Shonkwiler and J. E. Wheelock, by resolution appropriated the sum of five thousand dollars for the erection of a new court house. This was the highest amount the board could appropriate without a vote of the people. It was scarcely sufficient. The lumber and material had to be hauled from Sanborn or Paullina. Its actual cost was six thousand dollars, with vaults added. The people of Primghar, however, signed a written agreement to the board to haul the material without cost to the county, and the bids were called for on that basis. It was accepted and so hauled. Bidders were invited to make sealed bids on January 28, 1887. The bid was for even six thousand dollars. It was finished in December, 1887, all with suitable fire proof vaults, and at once occupied. It being not quite sufficient in size, in the year 1902 an addition, twenty by thirty-two feet, was added to same at a cost of one thousand four hundred dollars. The old court house was sold for the sum of four hundred sixty-nine dollars and ninety-five cents, and is now a residence in Primghar.

THE COURT HOUSE PUBLIC SQUARE.

William Clark Green and wife and James Roberts, by deed dated September 5, 1872, deeded two acres to O'Brien county for a court house square, as they likewise deeded two acres for a school house square and two acres to the Trinity Methodist Episcopal church, where the Congregational church now stands.

The grove of maple trees in same was planted in 1878 by the county, under contract by William D. Slack, and the trees and ground cultivated during the summer by Emanuel Kindig, member of the board of supervisors. The first part of the summer was excessively dry and the little sprigs, being practically planted in the sod, did not leaf out until the rains began in August.

In 1891 the county, town of Primghar, George W. Schee and Charles S. Cooper combined or contributed in hauling down about two thousand yards of earth, from the grading of the hill at Mr. Schee's residence, and covered the square from six inches to eighteen inches of earth, and filling in the street on the west side of square from three to four feet deep. The south and west sides of square were then a boggy slough, which made this grading necessary.

Two court houses and one jail have been built on same. It has been used by many public gatherings, old settlers' reunions, old soldiers' gatherings, Fourth of July celebrations, caucuses, conventions and the public generally

in addition to county uses. A cement sidewalk, now entirely around the square, has been built at intervals.

First by resolution of the board of supervisors, on petition of sundry citizens of Primghar, and later by deed dated September 21, 1887, O'Brien county deeded or rather dedicated five feet on each side of this square to the public to widen the street. The citizens of Primghar at the same time dedicated nine feet from off the respective blocks for the same purpose, leaving the streets eighty feet in width. The county has also placed a gas lamp at each side of the square. In the year 1911 the county also appropriated the sum of one thousand two hundred dollars for sewerage connections with the sewerage system of Primghar constructed in that year, as likewise the independent school district of Primghar appropriated nine hundred dollars for its like connections with sewerage. The county likewise provided four wells on the square, one at each corner. Other smaller trees and shrubbery are now in process of growth on same.

JAILS.

A jail perhaps is not a court house. The history of a jail, however, contains sufficient "sentences" from the records of the court house to make a full chapter. The jail proposition at Old O'Brien was much on a par with the old log court house. They needed a jail there bad enough, but the bunch wouldn't put themselves into it.

At Primghar there have been two jails. The first one, built in 1874, was more like a block house in the Indian days. It was about sixteen by twenty-four feet in size, and stood near the southeast corner of the court house square. It consisted of timbers, two by six, laid flat on each other, and filled through and through thickly with large spikes. It was much laughed at as a bastille. But nevertheless, thus filled with sharp metal spikes, the fellow breaking jail would even today have a better chance punching out a square hole through the brick walls of the present jail, as to untangle or get through those mass of spikes. It was later sold by the county as a residence and in 1907 was burned down.

SECOND JAIL.

In size the present jail is twenty-five by thirty-six feet and built of faced brick. It, with its furnishings, was built by contract dated July 9, 1890. The steel jail cages and steel work was built by the Paully Jail Company of St. Louis. The first cost of the jail was about five thousand dollars. Sundry

additions in improved cells and patent locking apparatus have been added. It stands on block 8 of Pringhar, next west block from the public square.

MORE ON THE FIRST COURT HOUSE.

The first court house in the county was built of logs on Mr. Hannibal Waterman's claim, and remained there for something over a year. It was built by virtue of a contract with James W. Bosler, and was to be eighteen feet square, but was shy a few feet on each side, so that its real dimensions were about fourteen by twenty. Instead of being used for a court house while on Mr. Waterman's claim, it was used by Moses Lewis as a residence, but a court house was not needed much, as the county officials carried the various departments of the county business around in their pockets. They tried to purchase of Mr. Waterman forty acres of land for county purposes, but at the time he wanted the scene of their manipulations as far away as possible. The old log court house was moved to the forty acres purchased from Henry C. Tiffey, on which Old O'Brien was started. The county wanted all its belongings together, but when it was set up again it was soon used as a school house, and by Moses Lewis as a residence, and later by A. L. Bostwick and R. G. Allen as a blacksmith shop and still later by W. C. Green as a stable.

We call this building a court house, because that was the name given to it, but after all it was a curiosity and a sacrilegious travesty upon jurisprudence. It was erected not for use, because nobody used it for the purpose for which it was supposed to be intended. It was erected, in fact, in order that a large number of warrants could be issued in pay for it, and these warrants went into the general pool of the gang. A court house implies a good deal. Generally, that emblem of justice, a blinded female holding in equipoise the scales of justice, stands prominently elevated, and at the fore, to tell the people that here the wrongs of this wicked world are righted, and that there is given to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and that justice is dispensed with an impartial hand. But here was a pile of logs, cut from the banks of the Little Sioux, notched, placed together in the form and shape of a building, and the temple of justice was complete. About it, and on all sides of it, were the consultations and manipulations of men, in devising the various methods of theft, the means of perpetrating robbery and plunder, while within, if it had been a court house in fact, the emblem would be truer to the conditions if that blinded female was weeping and her attitude that of a devotee at the throne of justice, whose heart was crushed with remorse. Never within the walls of this illy-constructed structure was an actual court held, never the sound of a voice of an advocate echoed among its rafters.

There were practically no records. None were needed. Court houses were not needed, for the elements of wickedness were averse to them; the only county records were the warrant books, and the only business of the county officials was to fill up the blanks and detach them for their purposes.

After this original log court house, there was built another in 1870, a frame, fourteen by sixteen, which cost several thousand dollars. The records, what few there were, were moved into it, but were moved out again, as Dan Inman needed a place to live and the court house was vacated to him for that purpose. This building was burned the next year, and soon afterward a similar building was erected, at a cost of several thousand more, which was used until the county seat was moved to Primghar.

In this latter so-called court house also Archibald Murray lived and also called this residence an auditor's office. It is somewhat difficult to reconcile these several buildings and so called court houses at Old O'Brien, either in number or size or quality. All this to say nothing of the sundry items for office rent in warrants issued to the same gentry. We will not attempt it. To sum it all up, the whole farce was simply to drum up some excuse, either by calling it office rent, or the erection of a court house, when in fact the offices for which rent was charged were the private residences of the officials, but by whatever name, or for whatsoever the purpose, it rounded up with a generous county warrant.

As a side statement relating to some of these same county organizers, we quote the following from a Sioux county authority, relating to their doings over in that county.

"Before any court house was built, and before there was any habitation in the county, a county government was effected under the shade of a cotton-wood tree by those enterprising characters in northwestern Iowa, Archibald Murray and Moses Lewis, assisted by lesser lights, and before the sun went down an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars had been made for the purpose of building a bridge across the Sioux river. Arch Murray was delegated to go to Chicago to negotiate the sale of warrants. He sold to the Lombards, Chicago bankers. While in Chicago he interested several other capitalists in investments in western bonds and county warrants."

We thus see that O'Brien county was but one of many counties in northwestern Iowa that were victims of these men. It would also appear that these men actually cast votes as electors in these several counties, as they did in O'Brien county. There seemed to be no consistency as to place of residence. The mere legal question of a right to vote was swallowed up in the swin of the greater wrongs committed by them.

CHAPTER VIII.

STORMS, PRAIRIE FIRES, GRASSHOPPERS AND BLIZZARDS.

CYCLONE OF JUNE 24, 1882.

The cyclone of June 24, 1882, was probably the most destructive single storm disaster ever experienced in this county, occurring at six o'clock in the morning. It was first observed at Primghar to the northwest in two eddies or hanging streamers of cloud, being none other than whirling, irresistible maelstroms of air, called a cyclone. These two whirling movements of air seemed to unite just north and west of town. It did its first terrific work in the complete destruction of the Methodist church building, scattering its debris in its track for more than a mile to the southeast. The residence of William Hastings, just across the street, met a like fate. Mr. Hastings observed its approach in time to get his wife and children into the cellar, but himself was hurled a distance of over one hundred feet amid the flying timbers from the church and his own demolished home. Two other houses stood near. He aroused from a half insensible condition, where the gale dropped him near one of these houses, that of William J. Stewart, and dragged himself to a spot near the window and was pulled into the house through this window. It was first thought that his wounds were fatal and that he was dying, but by medical aid he was soon able to get around, though he felt the effects of his injuries the balance of his life. The family were imprisoned in the cellar, where their home had stood, but were uninjured. The other nearby house was occupied by W. H. Durham and family and that of his son-in-law, Walter Scott, and family. A long heavy timber from the church shot through the house endwise, striking Mr. Scott on the head, leaving him senseless on the floor, as if dead, and lying upon his infant child, which he held in his arms. Mr. Durham was likewise struck on the head by the same or another timber and stunned, but was soon able to assist. Walter Scott was still feebly breathing. He sustained a fractured cheek bone and lost an eye from a flying splinter. His case was at first thought hopeless. For a long time his brain was supposed to be injured at the base.

but careful nursing for a long period gradually improved his condition. He later removed to Lake Charles, Louisiana, but never fully rallied and died there from its results about 1895. Caleb G. Bundy, editor of the *Pringhar Times*, resided immediately east of the church. It took half the roof and scattered the church debris all over the yard, tore down the chimney, part of the ceiling falling into the sitting room. The carriage sheds of Frank Tift and barn of George Hakenan were demolished. A portion of the roof was torn from the home of Mrs. Henrietta Acre, in the southeast part of town. The Methodist Episcopal parsonage in the north part of town was twisted out of shape, and sundry smaller items of damage done in various parts of the town. The writer passed the church not more than five minutes prior to the time the storm struck the building and saw the intense whirling, destructive motion.

There seemed to be sundry unions and offshoots of this storm in various parts of the county. In Union township, on Mill creek, the barn of Alexander Davidson was demolished and his dwelling house ousted from the foundation. On the farm of W. P. Davis, six miles south of Pringhar, his large barn and cattle sheds were destroyed; indeed, all but the dwelling. The large barn of John M. Thayer, in Dale, was destroyed and part of the house roof blown away. Harker & Green, in Highland, lost a barn and Riley Walling had his house shattered and foundation ruined. Mr. Walling and family escaped by quickly getting into a cave.

These whirls and spurs seemed to be everywhere in the air, and whenever the hanging cloud or strip, like a falling winding sheet, came down to earth there destruction was done. Up in Center township a vacant house was entirely blown away. Another spur in Highland carried away the house of Stewart King, and in the same township the house of Thomas Rollins was badly racked and twisted off the foundation. Mr. Rollins, on his way home from a neighbor's, was hurled into a hedge and badly bruised. A like offshoot veered to Sutherland where it did some damage. The general trend of the cyclone was towards the southeast. It next struck the house and barn of Fred Lemke, in Grant, and wiped them up as if so much chaff. The house, with the family in it, was actually rolled over and over, then jerked up in the air, and dashed on the ground into fragments. It was much commented on as one of the freaks of this class of storms that such destruction could be done and the family escape, and, as it was, one four year-old son, Robert, received an ugly gash in the face. A horse was badly crippled as the barn went flying into pieces. The Covey church, along the route of the storm, was badly shaken up and the gables torn off. One of the saddest accidents was at the home of William Haver. They saw it coming, but before they

could reach the house the walls and roof were whirled in every direction, a flying timber killing Mrs. Haver instantly. In the same township James Hiatt's house was destroyed. Luckily the family, as a summer convenience, were living in a tent. They were swirled up into the air and lit some distance away, uninjured. The house and stable of James Janes, on section 21, was destroyed, together with the stables of Ed Shepard, on section 10. At the homes of E. J. Frush and John Dakin in each case their stables were destroyed and houses uninjured. Mr. Lackey lost his residence. William Seeley's house was carried up into the air twice and dashed down before going to pieces. The family were carried several rods among the ruins, injuring Mr. Seeley severely, at first thought fatally, though he recovered, but his household goods were destroyed. Fortunately the family, when they saw it coming, sought refuge in the stronger granary and escaped. A large grove seemed to sufficiently protect and save the house of Don C. Berry, but his barn was destroyed. The Joseph DeMars family were among the unfortunate. Miss Elsie DeMars, a daughter of twenty years, was so badly injured that she died during the week. The collar bone of Mrs. DeMars was broken and her head and body lacerated. The three sons, Eugene, Samuel and Joseph, Jr., and Dina, the daughter, were badly injured. The house and barn of Thomas Jenkins were each crushed in and Mrs. Jenkins suffered a broken collar bone. The baby in the family was whirled away twenty rods and lodged in a pool of water uninjured. The barn of Richard M. Boyd, on section 14, was destroyed, actually driving many parts of the same into the ground, but losing only the roof of the house.

This same twister storm continued down into Waterman township, completely tearing to fragments the house of James Jenkins. Mrs. Jenkins was caught or wedged in between a barrel of lime and a hot stove and her eyes nearly burned from their sockets. The house of Oliva Marcott was swept away. They fortunately had a cave and escaped in that. The John DeTour residence was badly shattered in its upper story and a large part of the barn torn to pieces. At one point several feet of the building was left standing intact, showing the queer freaks of such twisters. Thomas Marcott, on section 12, lost his barn. His five-year-old boy was badly injured and died in a few days. Mr. Marcott also lost a roll of greenbacks amounting to six hundred dollars, which he never found. The house of Anthon Boyer, on section 11, was destroyed, though he himself was visiting at the home of William Conrad, just north of his house, and whose house was also demolished. Mr. Boyer had two ribs broken. Mrs. Conrad's skull was fractured and shoulder injured, while a son, Lennie, had a hip broken, Mattie an arm broken and

Lilly injured in the back, while Mrs. Conrad was otherwise lacerated. The house of Abrant Opdyke was torn to pieces and an upper floor fell upon and fatally injured him. He died the following day.

DESTRUCTIVE CYCLONE JUNE 5, 1914.

Just as this history is ready for the press, and on this June 5, 1914, at six o'clock P. M., occurred one of the most destructive cyclones ever in the county. It was first observed by our citizens in the county, when it struck several set of farm buildings, demolishing them and stripping several groves of trees of their barks completely, just south of Hospers, over in Sioux county, entering O'Brien county near that point.

Its first and perhaps worst destruction in the county was by a spur of the cyclone rushing in furious force through Carroll township, running nearly on a bee line north on the section line, commencing near the farm of M. F. McNutt, on the southeast corner of section 16, demolishing all his extensive set of buildings, curiously leaving his house intact and largely destroying his grove. The main maelstrom of air whirling in a circle as it proceeded, being from one-half to three-quarters of a mile in width, and its center of activity being squarely on the highway, destroyed practically all, namely about fifteen sets of farm buildings, each in value running from six to fifteen thousand dollars, including also groves torn up literally by the roots as it proceeded. One very sad death occurred in this township, the little grandchild of John Bilsland, one of the earliest settlers. M. D. Finch, another of the oldest settlers, was himself very severely injured and his buildings and grove destroyed. Perhaps the worst havoc in any one spot in its path was the total destruction of the buildings and grove of Fred Nelson. In the destructions of groves the trees of thirty and forty years growth were torn up by the roots and piled in confused heaps. Live stock lay dead right and left. Household goods, furniture, with the debris of buildings, were scattered over whole quarter sections of land, and to such an extent that the plowing of corn could not be proceeded with on many fields until the debris was removed and collected. Pianos were found in corn fields, and clothing and sacred relics of home hung in shreds and pieces on the barbs of fences and everywhere. Wire fences with posts were torn up and stripped loose and warped through the growing grain with such force and velocity as actually to burn in spots from the electricity and velocity of movement of wires. All the curious freaks were performed that are told of cyclones, all too much for detailed description. While a stunning blow to all the farmers in this long

path of ruin, even yet they were perhaps better able to stand its money value than the ruin to immediately follow within a few short minutes to the town of Sanborn, and some of its many poorer people, many with but a house and modest home.

Indeed the whole heavens of the north part of the county seemed to be under a fateful pulsation of electric current and the whirling streamers higher up in the heavens or lower down near the ground as "the wind blew where it listeth."

The spur striking Sanborn was just a little higher up on the average than the Carroll township spur, smashing in a larger number of the tops of the buildings and leaving the main body partly intact but shivered up. This latter was true up Main street for some three blocks. It first hit the round house, demolishing it in part, then overturning in a mass of ruin two elevators, thence up Main street, as stated, thence turning to the northeast, doing all manner of the curious and the freakish in vengeful whim of devastation, barely and fortunately missing the forty-thousand-dollar school building, but just across the street destroying the city park and city water tank and water works. The telephone system of the whole east half of the city was one hopeless tangle of wires.

Two very sad deaths resulted in Sanborn. Patrick Donoughue, a prosperous clothing merchant, was lifted into the air full thirty feet or more, as stated by eye witnesses, and hurled to the ground one hundred and fifty feet away to his death. James Duymstra, a young man, was also killed. About twenty people were injured, many seriously. About one hundred buildings were damaged in varied degrees. The loss in dollars to the town reached a quarter of a million. It would be impossible to sketch in detail the thousand merciless havoc incidents. It proceeded north, repeating its destruction up as far as the D. M. Norton farm, near the Osceola county line, destroying his buildings. It landed the whirlpool of another streamer into Melvin, with considerable destruction. If it had to be such a fate, its chosen hour of the day was fortunate, rather than still later in the evening or night. As a whole, it was a county-wide historic calamity.

BLIZZARDS AND SNOW BANKS.

The city of St. Paul for several years erected an ice palace. It was elegant. The light of the sun shining on a prism of either glass or ice will produce the seven colors of the rainbow. The same sun shining on all the angles and architecture of a mammoth pile of ice would all but reflect the Aurora

Borealis. But St. Paul was reminded that it was harming the state of Minnesota in advertising the wrong kind of a crop. This might tend to frighten. But O'Brien county has been tested out for now fifty-eight years. She has had a few bad features and had some wrong things done as herein recited, and we have recited both the bad and the good. But we will find that the good and the good in abundance so overtops and overpowers the bad features in general results, that we can safely even state that we have blizzards and snow storms and occasionally an early hard frost. For instance, in one year a very early cold wave in September, before the corn was ripe or hard, actually froze the corn in the milk until it was left soft, which made the cattle's mouths sore to eat it. It was indeed a loss. But even in that year the other crops were so bountiful that it was no insurmountable calamity after all. It is a praise to the county that in so many years only one such year befell its people. The other great years of plenty, so many in number, have so filled Pharaoh's and Jacob's corn cribs that automobiles continue to move and be purchased by the hundreds. Hogs occasionally have an epidemic of cholera, but we keep right on raising hogs, Sheeney or no Sheeney. O'Brien county has indeed been quite free from what may be termed an overwhelming calamity. Likewise we may have blizzards and snow storms, but O'Brien county has the money to buy fur coats and the school boy in glee will continue to throw snow balls just the same. The early settler felt these blizzards more severely, for his home was but a shack; there were no trees for wind break; his clothes corresponded, and besides there were no definite straight roads to lead the wanderer home. We must record some serious experiences, however.

The writer was on the street in that awful blizzard of January, 1888, in Primghar. In its first dash, it was not that it was so fearfully cold, for the snow was damp and slushy, and the thermometer then twenty degrees above zero. It came down in slush, the wind blew a gale, the snow sheets (in fact they were more like snow bed quilts), like a young avalanche, striking the face, shoulders, ears and eyes, so suddenly, a surprise, followed by bewilderment, that it was literally true that it was so overwhelming, dash after dash, that it was not only an effort but a struggle to get into one's own house even from his own door yard. This was just dusk. Later on in the night the colder wave struck and the thermometer went down to thirty-six degrees below zero, or a change of sixty-six degrees, and froze this slush to ice. The wayfarer became exhausted in the first struggle and five persons lost their lives in O'Brien county in that awful night of storm. We will give some

experiences as examples of what were duplicated over many counties adjoining.

Frank N. Derby, county treasurer, at that time lived in the south part of Pringhar, and in an effort to get home from his office had an awful experience. He would have failed had it not been for two items. His wife had placed a light in the window. But even this would not have saved him had he not by accident run into the wire fence, which he held fast to and followed the wire, but even then as he entered his house fell exhausted on the floor from his floundering with the storm.

William H. Bilsland, a homesteader in Carroll township, had a fearful experience and his two sisters, Jennie, aged twenty-five, and Tillie, aged twenty-two, met their sad fate in death. He had made a trip to court at Pringhar. The two sisters were at the father's home on the road. They undertook to go home with him in the sleigh. The blizzard struck them with full force, and the horses refused to go, indeed could not in such a gale and blinding storm. The sleigh tongue broke and the horses were detached. An effort was made to ride the horses, but that was unavailing. The sisters became exhausted. They dug as much of a hole in the snow as they could for a possible shelter until morning. Mr. Bilsland wrapped his own fur coat around the two, but, sad to record, it became their blizzard grave and the blinding snow their winding sheet. Mr. Bilsland himself struggled and floundered on, throughout the whole night, lost his direction and finally in the morning found himself miles away from his supposed position. It was a testing time even with a hardy life. None but a strong man, buoyed up by the hope of saving his sisters, could have baffled this battle storm, he to only save, and barely save, his own life.

This sad experience was only paralleled by the pitiful experience in Baker township, just south a few miles, during the same midnight hours. The wife, sister and child of Thomas Kjermoe were in the first instance safe in their own home, but, evidently frightened at the terrible fury of the storm, undertook to get to what seemed a safer place with a neighbor and relative living near. The only record of their awful experience during that terrible night that can ever be told are our conclusions from the grim evidence of death of the three frozen bodies, found two days after, lying cold in death in the snow only forty rods from their own home and place of safety they had so unfortunately left.

In Dale township also, in this same storm, Mrs. Anderson and her very aged mother and son, ten years old, were found in the snow drifts dead.

They, too, had become frightened and left their home to escape, as they thought, to a neighbor's. The cloak of Mrs. Anderson was found where she had tenderly wrapped it around the mother.

George C. Godfrey, of Paullina, and his two neighbors, Isaac L. Rerick and L. A. Douglass, were caught in this storm going home from Primghar, and struggled for hours, but luckily followed a fence which led to Mr. Godfrey's house and escaped. Sam Norland, living near Paullina, was likewise caught, but very fortunately stumbled on to a straw stack, dug a hole and remained in it unharmed until morning. E. B. Pike, of Sheldon, started with his team for Hull, when the storm struck him. He lost his bearings and wandered over the wild prairies all the night, but just at morning found a hay stack and saved himself, having a narrow escape.

The winters of 1871 and 1872 were each severe, and the early settlers had some bitter experiences, though no lives were lost in the winter of 1871. In the winter of 1872 John Miller was caught in a blizzard near Mill creek, west of Primghar, with a load of flour. To save himself he threw the flour sacks in the road and undertook the race for life on horseback. He was all but exhausted when he arrived home, thankful even to save his life.

In 1872 a young man named Fred Beach, from Iowa City, a friend of Houston Woods and Mrs. Roma W. Woods (one of the advisory board in this history), came to Old O'Brien to visit those old homesteaders, and, with no experience in a new country, undertook to make the trip across the bleak prairie in a blizzard to their home, about seven miles away. To accommodate Mr. Woods and other neighbors, he had also attempted to carry out their mail. He also had with him a pup dog sent from Iowa City to Mr. Woods. He evidently lost his bearings and started up the wrong creek towards, as he supposed, Mr. Woods' homestead, and lost his life in a blizzard snow bank grave.

The winter of 1880 was a memorable one, with immense snow banks, but fortunately the snow was dry and did not reach those death-dealing stages of the other winters. However, it was long spoken of as a blizzard winter from the mere quantity of snow. The Milwaukee railroad had not yet built its snow fences. It was said that the snow shovelers in many places had to throw it up, and then up again, even to fifteen feet high. Much snow blindness resulted with the snow shovelers, it lasting all winter. Indeed that year the writer saw heavy, hard crusted snow banks in Albright's grove adjoining Primghar as late as June.

It was that year when John H. Gear, governor of Iowa, issued a proclamation or order to the Milwaukee and other roads to remove the snow from

their tracks at all hazards and get coal to the needy people. The snow remained a depth of solid packed, crusted snow of three and four feet on the level all winter. The farmers in the various parts of the county turned out in large bodies to shovel and cut out the roadways to the towns. In a number of funerals the coffins were skidded by hand to the homes and burials had in the farm yards until spring. During that hard winter the writer, as county auditor, had the winter's coal for the court house hauled all the way from Cherokee, the town of Primghar then having no railroad. In many homes that winter the families had not fully provided themselves with the hay fuel, and the prairie grass was covered with this great bed of snow, coal was practically out of the question and the then small groves were not large enough to make wood. There were no telephones, neighbors were nearly all long distances apart, and even the trip to secure help was often a serious matter. With the now better homes and barns and buildings, with straightened roads, and houses closer together, these experiences could hardly be duplicated at the present time.

PRAIRIE FIRES.

O'Brien county citizens will never again see the grand sight of a genuine prairie fire. It was a condition, like the prairie sod, never to be repeated. It took thousands of years to create that condition. The tall prairie grass in the fall, when deadened by the frosts, burned like tinder. Conceive this grass to be from eight inches to four feet high (old settlers say they have seen it six feet high), and then apply the principle that heat rises and creates its own wind even on a still day; then add to that a high wind; then picture what havoc fire can do; then add the hay stacks, bursting in air, which gave proof through the night that those stacks were still there; then get the conception of the fact that many prairies stretched for thirty or more unimpeded miles, and that a high wind would carry this seething, roaring, consuming fire and mass of flames often ten to fifteen feet high, with dense smoke and cinders flying all over and high in the air, all piling flame after flame, and actually going as fast as a horse can run. The writer has thus seen lines of these fires, running zigzag here, and in a straight line there, then a specially tall twenty acres of slough grass burst forth with unusual energy and creating its own wind, for ten miles each way, the crackling of hundreds of tons of this grass, sounding like the rumbling of distant thunder and lighting up the heavens on a dark night like the Aurora Borealis or northern lights. It was indeed grand, but, as can be seen, it was serious, and these fires were a menace to the lone homesteader, then on a treeless prairie, living in a shack

shanty, with no money, as likewise to the hundreds of haystacks put up for winter use, or put up by these haying companies on a large scale. The homesteader soon learned to put up much more than he needed that he might provide against these fires, and, as there was plenty and labor the only outlay, he could do that easily. These people soon learned by experience to prepare fire breaks, by plowing strips around these stacks and around their homes, ten or more rods apart, and on a still day burn the strip between, but even then the fire would often bound over and beyond and clean out either a home or all the hay. They also soon learned that it was safer to leave fifty or more tons, or twenty stacks, scattered here and there over the prairie, with plowing around each stack, than to stack it all around the home and risk his all in one fire. At times these high winds would carry a bunch of blazing prairie grass high into the air and these precautions prove unavailable. The burning haystacks would only scatter the danger. Single fires have thus been known to burn over a full fourth of the county, and thence on to other counties, all in one fire. The next day this whole prairie would look like one drapery of death in mock funeral destruction, with the black ashes or dust moving in the heavens in streamers of black smoke, and working destruction to more than one home and winter's feed for stock. It was indeed a grand spectacle, now never again to be seen in the county.

TOWNS EVEN IN DANGER.

In those early days, say 1875-1885, the tall prairie grass grew right in the public square of Pringhar and in the streets of every town in the county. The writer remembers one little incident during those years, of sitting on the sidewalk of the main street of Sheldon with an old settler, with the prairie grass up to our knees, and of our remarking at the time that the grass was literally growing under our feet. The town was not yet old enough for this grass to have been tramped out. Fairly good sized prairie fires have thus burned within the limits of the towns of the county, on prairie grass. On perhaps half a dozen occasions the writer has seen a sudden scurry, a fire company organized impromptu, each citizen hurrying with a pail of water, a mop, an old gunny sack or a spade to pound out a streak of fire, as one of these long lines of fire would come sweeping towards the town, citizens hurrying to the blacksmith shop to break it open and draft into service the farmer's plows left there to be sharpened, while other citizens were hurrying to the livery to impress the available horses, to plow two strips around the town, and then to back fire the strip between to save the town, meantime the women and

children using the dampened mops and gunny sacks and spades fighting fire to save the town from burning.

GRASSHOPPERS.

The grasshoppers and the county debt were indeed twin scourges of the early day. The grasshoppers lasted for seven years, or perhaps it should be said from five to seven in the different localities. They were not merely the common, small, tame grasshoppers seen each year along the edges of the pastures. They were known as, and called, the "rocky mountain locust." Their natural home and hatching ground was in the arid, dry sands and soil of the west. They were visitors. In size they were often three inches in length. They did not belong to this region. The scientist has claimed that they never returned, but that each succeeding year, in this damper region that they degenerated in size and strength and finally disappeared. They were prolific, active, saucy and destructive and no remedy for their practical destruction was found. As one wag got it off, "You could catch one grasshopper and kill him, but you had a job on your hands with the whole bunch." They deposited their eggs in large numbers in the dry, mellow, soft dirt of recent plowing. The sun was the old hen that hatched them out. It may seem like an extravagant, overdone story to state the fact, as the writer himself did on many occasions, namely, gather up within a few feet a handful of from fifty to a hundred eggs, and hold them in the hands in the sun, and within twenty minutes they would expand and hatch out and jump off the hand, hop, hopper, a full frisky grasshopper, ready to light on the tender wheat or corn blade, in preference to the tougher prairie grass. They had a choice. They had been in the country before, but not in such countless numbers. When they arose in the millions in great clouds, they literally would dim and cloud the sun. When thus in the air they would usually fly with the wind and at a tremendous velocity. The sun shining on their silvery yellow wings, their rapid movements gave them the appearance of shooting stars. Their incisors and well-boring outfit were in proportion, in effect and size, only ten times increased to the blood-boring outfit of a good sized mosquito. These sets of tools could down a large field of wheat or corn in a short time, with many hands doing quick work.

They first came in 1873. In 1877, the year the writer arrived, the people were undergoing the blues of Blue Monday indeed. They were still in considerable numbers in 1878 and were practically gone in 1879. The year of 1873 was excessively dry. This resulted in enough ancestral grasshoppers

to keep up the family for the six succeeding years. The strong, hot southwest and westerly winds rousing them up in a myriad cloud, in clash and movement of millions of wings would often sound like the roaring of a storm.

The *Sioux City Journal* in one issue said, "Farmers should not get discouraged." It was hard to tell whether this was intended to be humorous, serious or grim irony or satire. One wag put it: "In the (s)wheat bye and bye." Another wag got it off that "The impudent little cusses would work hard all day, boring wells into his corn stalks, eating, sucking and destroying his corn, and then in the evening would light and line up on his fences and posts and squirt corn juice in his face." All kinds of remedies and suggestions were made and tried out. Some dug a ditch along the field to stop their progress in part. This, however, was doing it just a little. Each remedy fell just a little short. Others tried a long trough filled with kerosene to drag along the fields with a horse, and get them emmeshed with the liquid, but this was only the old woman with her broom sweeping back the waters. The Eastern people and papers said we had all the plagues of Egypt. This did not assist emigration.

The grasshopper was indeed an early settler. He settled on the grain. He was a pioneer. He established his own right by possession. Just imagine, if the reader will, a penniless homesteader, planting corn for a sod crop, and that his first year in the county, as he would laboriously with an ox team turn up five to six inches of solid unsubdued sod of vigorous prairie grass roots in a dry season, and depending on that first crop to winter these oxen or span of horses a cow or two, a few hogs and also to support himself and family for the winter, with the farm machine man sticking a promissory note at him and threatening to sue him if he did not pay up. This was humorous again, as old Captain Edwards, county auditor, said to the machine note man, "Dod blame it, boys, that's right: sue 'em, put 'em in judgment, I can add 'em up better then."

This fact is probably true, however, with all the damage they did, that now in these later prosperous years of plenty, O'Brien county could feed all those grasshoppers and not miss it. But then they took it all. One man on a whole section of land, with twenty-five acres of first-year sod corn, did not last even a day sometimes.

Like all other new countries, the settler bought too much machinery, and during all these seven years and for years afterward these promissory notes became due with interest added. One machine agent came to Cherokee to meet one of these homesteaders, and took a photograph of one of these haytwisters, with his feet and legs wrapped up in gumysacking in lieu of

shoes, with all other clothes to match, and sent it in to the house. Chattel mortgages were given galore, for machine notes, for groceries, for bread. There is one chattel mortgage on the records of O'Brien county actually covering a coffee mill with some other household articles. No wonder they were willing to catch some gophers for the bounty offered and take a county warrant, and even press the matter beyond the limit.

At the September session, 1876, the board of supervisors, on petition of these now distracted homesteaders, by resolution declared all taxes of residents unavailable and cancelled them from the tax lists. This petition and resolution also directed itself to Congress and relief committees for help and relief. Other counties likewise joined who were similarly afflicted. Some citizens, however, held back, fearing that this advertising of those troubles would injure later on in securing settlers.

During the darkest year of 1874, State Senator Samuel H. Fairall, of Iowa City, and our own George D. Perkins, state senator from this district, made a tour of these northwestern counties of Iowa and on the convening of the Legislature in January, 1875, recommended an appropriation of a loan of one hundred and five thousand dollars to these northwest counties, but to be paid back. The Legislature reduced the amount to fifty thousand dollars, but made it an out-an-out donation, which was distributed for seed grain to those most needy. This was supplemented also by contributions from relief committees over the country. This making it a donation instead of a loan was the proper thing, as it took many years for those homesteaders of O'Brien and other counties to remedy their conditions.

A committee of the Legislature, composed of Representatives Brown and Tasker, came to Sheldon in March, following and made the distribution, but, as can be seen, even this large sum permitted but a small amount to each homesteader, just sufficient to get seed in the spring, the orders being "to exercise the utmost caution and to supply only the most needy, as it was an emergency measure." Gen. N. B. Baker, of the governor's staff, was the general manager for the distribution of this relief. The people were very grateful, however, as the item of seed grain actually determined the question in many cases whether the homesteader either would or could stick for another year, or dig out, as the expression went. Probably, however, like the prairie sod, like the homesteader, like the Indian, like the pioneer, like the then grasshopper in the millions, these conditions only happen or occur but once. When done and gone they were gone forever. Therefore they were historic.

In these later years of prosperity and plenty, in this year 1914, it would

seem absurd to think that the resolution following could ever have been seriously adopted in O'Brien county. Those who have never experienced the ravages for seven years of millions and clouds of grasshoppers would hardly believe it. But in 1873 it was serious. It may be curiously observed that the word grasshoppers was not used. Like the silent lips of death, it was not necessary. The names therein given, however, were among Sheldon's most reliable citizens. In this history we have refrained from inserting long petitions on various subjects, but we cannot abbreviate it in this case and express the due distress of the people during those years and at same time give the proceedings and names of those responsible people taking part. The following was the report of the meeting and resolution:

From the *Sioux City Journal* of December 6, 1873—"Sheldon, Iowa, December 1, 1873.—Pursuant to a call of the citizens of Sheldon, a meeting was held at Sheldon, November 29, 1873, to take steps for relief to the needy homesteaders of O'Brien county. Meeting was called to order by J. A. Brown, H. D. Wiard was chosen chairman, and E. F. Parkhurst, secretary. The following resolutions were presented and adopted:

"Whereas, many of the people of O'Brien county, through the unfortunate failure of crops last season, are needing such aid and assistance from others as is necessary to carry their families through the winter, and procure seed for their land in the spring; therefore, be it

"Resolved, that we appoint a committee of eight to apply to such other parts of the state for what is needed, and to distribute the same when received, among such families as require it.

"Resolved, that the committee report from time to time a list of such goods as are received and that names of the families to whom they are distributed and what each one received."

"The following persons were elected as that committee: J. A. Brown, H. C. Lane, Ben. Jones, Eli Barsh, Eli F. Woods, M. G. McClellan, E. F. Parkhurst and E. W. Evans.

"It was voted that a copy of the minutes of this meeting be sent to the *Sheldon Mail*, *Sioux City Journal* and *State Journal*, with a request for publication.

"H. D. WIARD, Chairman.

"E. F. PARKHURST, Secretary."

CHAPTER IX.

COUNTY SEAT CONTESTS.

O'Brien county has had four county seat contests: The contest between Old O'Brien and Primghar in 1872, the contest of 1879 between Primghar and Sheldon, the Sanborn raid or contest in 1882 and the contest of 1911 between Primghar and Sheldon.

There are few public agitations that will equal in strenuousness and earnest excitement a county seat contest. It is human nature that the citizens of the contesting towns will be loyal to their home towns. That quality is right and commendable as between the individual and his town, but it forms no reason of itself why a county seat should or should not be relocated. The immediate excitement and the otherwise contentions of individuals and towns are often the real subjects discussed in these contests. There are, however, groundwork causes and reasons, above and beyond all this, to which as historic matter we must look and for which we must search in these contests. The contests hover over the shoulders of the towns involved, but the causes solving them out are county wide. We must, therefore, set aside the individual and tense feelings always playing a part in such contests and look beyond.

The law of the state as to filing petitions and remonstrances was not quite the same in the first two contests of 1872 and 1879 as it was in the last contest of 1911. At the periods of the first two contests the law permitted both sides to procure signatures to both petitions and remonstrances, clear up to the date of the hearing by the board of supervisors. In fact, in the contest of 1879 the board actually permitted signatures to petitions on both sides that were being procured as the board proceeded with the hearing.

At the time of the 1911 contest the law required the petitioner asking for relocation of the county seat, or remonstrating thereto, to affix his signature, to add thereto the date when he signed same, to give the number of the section, township and range of the land, or the number of the ward if in a city of his residence, and also required that the completed petition be filed sixty days prior to the hearing by the board. The remonstrators could sign up

names during the canvass of the county by the petitioners and during this sixty days and up to within ten days of the hearing. During each of the contests the law required publications to be made of the coming filing of a petition in a newspaper. All the time it has provided that names found on both petition and remonstrance should only be counted on the remonstrance. As can be seen, in all county seat contests this invites a tense struggle in the procurement of signatures.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN O'BRIEN AND PRIMGHAR IN 1872.

The establishment of the county seat at Old O'Brien had had an ignoble cause, as we have detailed under other heads. This first contest was not strictly between Old O'Brien and Primghar, but between Old O'Brien and the then prairie grass plat of forty acres, the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 36, township 96, range 41. It is probably the only instance in the history of the state where a spot of forty acres of raw bare prairie, with no inhabitants and not even a name (the name Primghar not yet having been given to it), ever contested with a prior county seat and actually won out. The board ordered the vote at its June session, 1872, and the election occurred November 11, 1872. The vote of the people stood three hundred and seven for removal, and fifty-three against.

We will give reasons. In all the other contesting efforts to relocate, including this effort to remove it from Old O'Brien, there were ground-work causes solving out the destiny of the county. This first fight in 1872 was indeed a supreme effort on the part of the old homesteaders recently then locating in 1870-71-72 to reform matters. The real gist of this fight lay in the settled determination of these settlers that the county seat and its records, and that even the sentiment hovering over Old O'Brien, and its rat hole of a log court house, should be wrenched from the Bosler-Cofer-Tiffey crowd, and that the only way to do it was to root it up and move it away and settle the then one desired fact, that the new settlers' rights should be established and that they should not loose from those pirates in the organizing of counties for profit. A second thought also was to locate the county seat at the exact center. It was also a further thought to locate it on or near the forty-third parallel of latitude, which was two miles below the proposed location, and where Congress in its land grant to the Milwaukee railroad recited it should be built "as near as may be."

SECOND CONTEST, 1879.

Sheldon vs. Pringhar and Sanborn vs. Pringhar. On June 3, 1879, there was filed before the board of supervisors of the county the "petition" of sundry citizens, asking for the relocation of the county seat from Pringhar to Sheldon. The hearing before the board occupied three days at its June session. The official record of the same is quite meager.

The board found that five hundred and thirty-two signed the petition for relocation; that fifty-seven illegal voters or non-residents signed same; that eighty-nine voters who had signed the petition had also signed Pringhar's remonstrance; that, in all, four hundred and ninety-five signed the remonstrance; that there were fourteen illegal signers on the remonstrance. Based on the above findings, the petition was rejected. The hearing lasted for three days amid much excitement. It was held in the court room, with large crowds present from all parts of the county. The street scenes were even more demonstrative on both sides than the open sessions at the hearing.

During the period of circulating Sheldon's petition, the town of Sanborn also circulated a petition to relocate the county seat at Sanborn, and Pringhar circulated remonstrances against both towns. A general remonstrance was also circulated against relocating it anywhere, but the board rejected this as being too indefinite. At that time the law did not require the petition to be filed until the day of the hearing before the board, and did not fix a definite date when to be filed, and required no dating of signatures, as now. Much of these three days, or at least some part of the time, was occupied in sparring between the two contending forces, actually procuring delays, and also in the meantime procuring more signers to petition and remonstrance. This caused much excitement.

Looking to the weightier reasons and causes, we can see in this contest the beginning or first growths of the second contest in 1911 between the same towns. Sheldon in 1879 was already six years a railroad town. Pringhar was still roadless. Sheldon had been growing. "Pringhar, poor old maid," as B. F. McCormack humorously remarked, "was waiting for a proposal," from some one to build for it a railroad.

But the two historic facts remained, that Sheldon was established on the border of the county and Pringhar in the center. The decision was the same as it later was in 1911. The people of the county, amid excitement, was solving out its destiny.

THE THIRD COUNTY SEAT CONTEST, KNOWN AS THE SANBORN RAID.

Each of the other three contests were conducted under the statutes of Iowa, providing for petitions or vote. The Sanborn raid, which occurred November 23, 1882, was purely a physical combat for the county seat. Nevertheless, it had its causes. Several years ago Frank A. Vaughn, editor of the *O'Brien County Democrat*, requested the senior editor of this book to write an impartial account of the matter, he having participated personally therein. Believing it could not be set forth more impartially than it was there done, we give it a place in full, as being practically an official record of the unique event.

"Mr. Frank A. Vaughn.

"Editor *O'Brien County Democrat*:

"You have requested me to write up a statement of what was known as the 'Sanborn Raid,' or the incident of Sanborn actually securing and holding the county seat for one day. During the past now nearly thirty years I have at sundry times been requested to do so, but so far have refused. It was one of the most intense county-wide excitements ever in the county. For many years this incident was so intermingled with politics and local personalities that I thought best not, but that it should be postponed until all that is left is the fact as it occurred, with all personalities left out. But time is now so far removed that at least it should be done now impartially, and in doing so to go back a little into some of the facts and causes leading up to the same.

"This incident occurred on the night of November 23, 1882. At that time Pringhar had no railroad and no prospect of any within any reasonable time.

"Prior to this, in 1879, both Sheldon and Sanborn had circulated petitions to the board of supervisors, to submit the question of removal to a vote of the people. These two contests in their time had followed down with its natural discussions.

"Pringhar had then only about one hundred and seventy-five people. It had gone on thus from 1872 (when it was laid out) until 1882, holding railroad meetings and hoping against hope. In the grant of Congress to the Milwaukee Railroad it provided that said road should be built through O'Brien county on the forty-third parallel of latitude as near as may be and connect the Sioux City road at Sheldon. This forty-third parallel, as a matter of fact, lies just south of Pringhar about two miles. This fact the

men who laid out the town had in mind, as likewise the fact that it was in the exact center. The Milwaukee road in 1878 built itself 'as near as may be' to this forty-third parallel to and through Sanborn, and our ten years' hopes and patient waiting went down forty degrees below. One can thus read between the lines of the thought of the then people of Sanborn that if the railroad had thus gone on this forty-third parallel 'as near as may be,' that meant that the forty-third parallel, or Primghar, or the county seat could remove to Sanborn, 'as near as may be.' Indeed one joke, though it was seriously considered, was for Sanborn to reincorporate the whole territory between Primghar and Sanborn as a town, and then for the board to simply order the court house to be moved to the other end of the town, that is, to Sanborn's end of it, on the theory that no vote of the people would be needed. This may be laughed at now, as lacking in argument, but so did the idea of a 'raid' without a vote lack in the same way and yet it was undertaken at the time seriously. I simply mention these facts as showing that the Sanborn raid or removal idea had some causes back of it all. While determined to hold the county seat, Primghar itself was in fact getting sick of the long wait. When, in 1878, the Milwaukee was built, the hearts of the Primghar people sank. Again, when, in 1881, the next or Northwestern road was built just south of us, the town was sick again. During those three years, from 1878 to 1881, there were actually about fifty to sixty buildings, large and small, removed from Primghar to Sanborn, Paullina and some even to Sutherland. One can imagine how consoling that was to the one hundred and seventy-five Primghar people, waiting for a railroad.

"But on each contest before the board of supervisors, notwithstanding the above facts, that even the people of Primghar were growing weary, the people said No; the farmers then argued thus: 'That the county seat is not fixed for a day or a year, but for future years;' 'that the farmers, the bulk of them, went to the county seat overland, and that the farmers from the farthest corner of the county could go there and back the same day, and that he would be fair with the other farmers at the other end of the county who could do the same thing, and thus meet him half way, and thus give him a square deal, and that the farmer had as good a right to the argument as the town man.' But Sanborn argued to herself that with Primghar itself thus 'sick,' if we can get it actually removed, for any reason, that the people will simply acquiesce.

"Just at this time the railroads of the country were having a passenger rate war, until the Sioux City road actually offered a round trip ticket to Saint Paul and back for twenty-five cents. Every officer in the court house,

except the auditor, together with many other citizens, took advantage of this and left town for this trip. There being then no railroad at Pringhar, these officials went by the way of Sanborn to take the train, which brought up the subject and the idea of a raid was sprung.

"The citizens of Sanborn were soon well organized. Under the town pride idea that they must all stand together, they were naturally united. Its best citizens, like William Harker, J. L. Greene, Harley Day, Mart Shea, David Palen and one hundred others, participated. One hundred men went down from Sanborn with teams, wagons, crow bars, heavy timbers, pulleys and tackle, fully equipped, and arrived in Pringhar at midnight. It took but a half hour or less for that number of vigorous, energetic men to batter down the court house doors, and to cut down the window sills level with the floor, and to proceed to load up records, documents, filings, papers and everything that was loose or could be loosened, from every office, and load them into and upon forty wagons now hitched and standing around the square. The county treasurer's safe was loaded on a brand new wagon in the court house square, which had been drafted into service from one of the machinery houses in Sanborn. The recorder's and clerk's safes were loaded on other wagons, though the recorder's safe was the only one that in fact got clear in Sanborn. The county auditor's safe had been built right into the building as a part of it, and could not be removed.

"While these happenings were going on thus vigorously, the alarm was sounded through the town, by some one who was sleeping in the old wooden jail. Everybody was awake at once, its remaining people, men, women and children, running, hollering and yelling. George W. Schee and myself were the only county officer and ex-officer present; probably twenty of her people went on this trip. It was perhaps fifteen or twenty minutes before these scared people could get organized. Mr. Schee and myself were first on the ground. We both agreed at once that whatever else happened we would not permit or bring on any physical conflict, and that we would hold our tempers.

"In the meantime I had first walked through the court house, where the removers were mainly at work, and shook hands with every one of the one hundred men I could get to within reach. This put everybody in a laughing mood, which continued through it all. I then went out on the porch and gave a yell and called the 'house to order.' Every man stopped still and listened attentively, and I said:

"Gentlemen: This is public property and belongs to O'Brien county. I call upon you as citizens in my capacity as county auditor to desist and assist in the protection of your property, the public records and the court

house. I realize that you now have the majority, and we will not attempt to bring on any physical contest, but these records must be returned. We will have five hundred men in Sanborn tomorrow morning, when we will be in the majority.'

"The yell was then given by the crowd to whoop her through. Mr. Schee and myself then managed to get together thirteen men at the edge of the square for consultation. I got into my office and we hustled the county seal, the supervisor's record and warrant book, and a few other records into Mr. Schee's office across the way. These were the only records that did not arrive in Sanborn. In the consultation of these thirteen men this line of fight or baffling was arrived at and decided on. That all hands should pass quickly among the teams and cut and slash the harness and wring off the nuts off the wagon wheels or axles, and thus disarm them, but to desist as soon as they got onto it and not bring on a fight. The nuts were thus unscrewed from the wheels of the wagon on which the county treasurer's safe was loaded, which disabled it and prevented its removal, though the fifty-foot log chain was also wrapped around it, then to a post, and the ends held by the men for some time. Many harnesses were cut up.

"One amusing incident occurred. The Sanborn men were loading the records and papers into several wagon boxes. Mr. Schee and others were attempting to unload them and to carry them into Mr. Schee's office. David Palen, in his vigorous way, yelled out, 'See here, you Pringhar thieves, you, Schee and Peck, don't you know that you are stealing our records,' and everybody on both sides laughed heartily. But these sallies preserved the good temper on both sides of the crowd. Another sally from a Primgarean was this: 'See here, you Sanborn fellows, the nuts are off your wagon wheels, the chain is round the treasurer's safe, now walk up and pay your taxes.'

"Our thirteen men also decided on this further policy, which was carried out: To secure every livery team and saddle horse or team in town, and start out every man and boy to rouse up the people in the different parts of the county. This county seat removal began its march to Sanborn about half past two. When I saw that I could do no more I got a team and, with Mr. Frank Tift, started for Sheldon, stopping at every farm house on the way, in turn starting them out each way through the county. We got to Sheldon just at daylight. Indeed the news spread and roused up things far beyond expectations. It raised much excitement in Sheldon and everybody got out for business ready to start for Sanborn. The then current story in

all the papers that I rode a mule horseback across the country was not in fact true, but acted on the sentiments all the same.

"In the meantime I had telegraphed to each district judge, the district or state's attorney, the *Sioux City Journal*, and called the members of the board of supervisors in special session to meet me as county auditor at Sanborn at ten o'clock, where we, in fact, met and held several sessions during the day, and in negotiations with reference to the return of the records. In fact five hundred men did meet us in Sanborn by ten o'clock from all parts of the county, and in fact an inventory was taken by one fellow present and he ascertained that at least eighty shot guns and revolvers were on hand in the crowd, though myself and our board rather feared from that that some regrettable thing might happen, and proceeded on calmer lines of talk with the Sanborn citizens, though in fact this danger idea played a part in the solution. The board advised all parties to keep calm. The Sanborn people were at first disposed to 'stand pat.' But as the day progressed, it dawned on both sides that it would not be safe to permit these five hundred excited men to remain in the town through the night, which would have been done. Besides it soon became clear to both sides that, without a vote of the people, such an attempted removal of the county seat would soon get into the courts and before grand juries and other jurisdictions and get public affairs into many legal troubles that could not stand. It all soon became humorous as well as serious.

"About one o'clock a committee of, I think, six of Sanborn's best citizens came forward in a manly way and said to the board in substance: 'We see that we have made a mistake. The only way out is to correct it. We will at once hand over all the records to J. L. E. Peck, county auditor, and will pay all expenses on both sides.' This proposition was accepted and faithfully carried out. This expense was quite large, but was fully paid. I procured gunny sacks from the grain elevators and sacked up all the records and papers and tied them securely. This was twenty-nine years ago, and I believe it to be a fact that not a record or document was ever lost by reason of same. Indeed, the Sanborn people were well organized and with particular instructions to 'Get every paper and record,' which if it was to be done, was fortunate, as it preserved them in safety. The recorder's safe, as remarked, was the only one that got to Sanborn. I hired teams to haul the safe and records back.

"Banker J. L. Greene, of Sanborn, had removed his furniture from his large residence, which became the temporary court house for the day, and the books, records, papers and filings were piled promiscuously eight feet

high in several rooms. Even before the Sanborn committee had offered to surrender the records the crowd had ascertained their whereabouts and had marched up in military drill (many were ex-soldiers), to and around this new court house, insisting on a surrender of the records.

"In the meantime I had got the gunny sacks and teams on the spot, to get ready for the return. The crowd all declared at once that they would not handle a record, but that the Sanborn committee must load them all up. This, while it was tedious and took till dark, proved the safe thing, as the crowd would not have done it with the care as did the fewer number. Especially was this true when we consider that every paper or document might be a serious loss to some one. The Sanborn committee of about five or six worked in literal hard work, amid the jeers of the crowd, calling for marriage licenses, and to pay their taxes, and to get naturalized and all that, until we all thought it almost overdone, and we all felt relieved when we started for Primghar.

"In our absence, the women of Primghar had chopped and sawed that new wagon all to pieces and had the tongue sawed off and erected on the square as a staff with a flag on it. The pieces of that wagon, even the axles and tires and small parts, were carried all over the county as relics.

"At a lyceum in Primghar, the next year, the crowd presented me with a cane made from that wagon tongue, with a gold head. On receiving the cane I expressed the sentiment that I would not receive it in any sense of keeping alive any ill feelings resulting from that affair. Though myself lame, and always using a cane, I never used it, not even for an hour, as at that time I felt that it would only suggest the feelings then prevalent. Years later, at an old settlers' reunion in Primghar, someone conceived the idea of a museum for the day of hay twisters, grasshopper catchers, and other old settlers' relics, and, without my knowledge, some one went to my house and got it and put it among the other articles of novelty. When our then invited Sanborn guests were there, they naturally were offended. When I learned of it Mr. Schee and I went and removed it. That same day some one removed the cane part from the head and took the cane away. I did not see or hear of it again for twelve years. One day, in 1905, I received a letter from Sioux City which read:

"'Mr. J. L. E. Peck: The man who stole your cane is still abroad in the land. I can get it delivered to you for twenty-five dollars.' To which letter I replied:

"'Dear Sir: Your letter received. The best place for that cane is in
(11)

the bottom of the Missouri river. Please put it there. I never wore it or used it. To now pay twenty-five dollars for it would only add a seeming intention to keep up ill feelings. Good day.'

"But, returning to the main question. On arrival in Pringhar with the records, the court house was all open and much demolished. The crowd, returning, mainly came back this way, and many remained all night, and quite a number for several days. I appointed twelve men to guard the records, which was kept up for three days, until repairs were made and until the crowd all scattered out to their homes. It took myself and three helpers three weeks to sort out and examine each paper and record and return it to its place. The next day the Sanborn committee came down and appointed Mr. Schee, George Hakeman and myself as auditing committee, to determine what expenses should be paid by them, which we did.

"Much feeling prevailed over the county. Indeed, indignation meetings were held in several townships, and much loud talk and newspaper headlines and poetry and squibs were indulged in. The arrest of the main parties was loudly demanded. In fact, informations were signed. I sent word to the main eight men of the facts of the informations, and suggested that they come down and give bonds without any arrests, for, as I suggested to them, that if it is not done here it will be done in the south part of the county, and that under present excitements it was best that no further public gatherings be had. It was done.

"But in the meantime, and within a few days, as part of the almost humorous features of this humorous, yet serious affair, in looking up the law, and consulting with the then district or state's attorney, S. M. Marsh, of Sioux City, while the crowd and the public was yelling that it was a 'steal' and 'theft,' and all that, it was discovered by those of us closest in the matter that in law there was no theft there. That theft in law involved the 'intention to appropriate the property of another to one's own use individually.' That no such intention existed. Indeed that the opposite was the intention. That while, as a remedy for the removal of a county seat, it was irregular, that so far as the crime of theft was concerned it could not be sustained, and would not be in the courts. The milder misdemeanor would perhaps obtain with a light fine, but that was swallowed up in the excitement and demand for that which could not be upheld. The mass people at the time wondered why it was thus, but as time went on it became more definite that, notwithstanding all the then noise and talk the state's attorney's advice and our own conclusions were right. Indeed as we now later look back, it was indeed a good thing for the county that the trials demanded by an ex-

cited public did not get loose or started, as it would have been an expensive deal, full of politics and all that, in local matters, only to be discovered later, what we most of us concluded within a few days, though some of us were censured much at the time, that it was not done.

"In truth and in fact, no more honorable men ever lived in the county than William Harker, J. L. Green and many others who participated in the affair. As Mr. Harker once said to me, that 'it was the foolishhest act of my life, but enthusiasm carried all of us off our feet.'

"To sum it up, it was a frolic. It was serious. It was humorous. It was almost tragic in its features. It is only a pioneer country that can duplicate its conditions.

"I have written this out as per your request, after thirty years, merely as stating an early incident, which, as you have suggested, some might be interested in, in knowing the real facts, as they developed, from causes back of things, as I have shown, and as they were witnessed by one who participated, and by one who now only recites same in the belief that, now after thirty years, it can be read even by both sides with calmness and only as looking back to it as an early incident of actual occurrence.

"The then county officials were: T. J. Alexander, county treasurer; J. L. E. Peck, county auditor; W. H. Noyes, county recorder; Frank A. Turner, clerk of the courts; Clark Green, sheriff, and David Algyer, superintendent of schools.

"The members of the board of supervisors were Thomas Holmes, Ralph Dodge, Ezra M. Brady, George Hakeman and J. L. Kinney.

(Signed)

"J. L. E. PECK."

FOURTH COUNTY SEAT CONTEST, PRIMGHAR AND SHELDON.

This contest took place in 1911. As we have before remarked, all such contests have their ground work causes. The citizens of each town, by the natural promptings of human nature, support their own town. An ambitious town intuitively desires to secure all the betterments for itself that it can. The citizens of the town in possession of the county seat will always contest. It becomes likewise an intuitive self defense. The law provides for the raising of such questions. This contest was strictly on the lines of the statute. We inquire for the ground work causes?

As we have observed herein on other subjects, that, owing to its early and very large public debt, just lately paid off, the people of O'Brien county have postponed the building of its final modern court house until after this was all paid off. This has postponed this matter longer in years than most

other counties in the state. The county was yet housing its records in a frame court house. This said, in effect, that there was something incomplete about the county seat. It lacked its final court house. This contributed in inviting the question. Again, Primghar had not secured its railroad until fifteen years after Sheldon, nine years after Sanborn and Hartley and six years after Paullina and Sutherland had each become railroad towns. Indeed, as a wag got it off, "Primghar was like an old maid waiting for a proposal—from some one proposing to build a railroad, to save its hide." A railroad is needed in the present day to keep a town building. Following the years needed in the growth of the modern ideas in hotels and brick school buildings and other like structures, Primghar was postponed a like number of years on all these items. It had cost Primghar, with its few people before the Central landed, ten thousand dollars to secure the twenty-two miles of right of way required of it. The town had to recuperate from this. Sheldon in meantime had secured three roads. It had become in reality a distributing point. It was the largest town in the county. But, on the other hand, as results demonstrated, after all, the one prominent fact could not be departed from, that Sheldon was located on the county line and Primghar in the center. We can thus see the ground work causes in the times and conditions of growth, leading up to this contest, testing out that question. It was the inevitable that the question should arise.

On March 3, 1911, the people of Sheldon commenced the circulation of a petition for the "relocation of the county seat at Sheldon." It was indeed a vigorous and genuine up-to-date county-seat contest, with the frills all on, as was facetiously remarked. Both sides soon realized that they were in a real fight.

When we realize that this contest lasted for ninety days, and that for the first thirty days during the period, when both sides were in the field, each side had from twenty to thirty automobiles with earnest men rushing over the county, each making haste to secure one-half or a majority of the forty-five hundred (one authority states forty-two hundred and seventy-six) voters with their signatures; when we realize that Sheldon, in the first instance, secured twenty-four hundred and eighty-five signatures; when we realize that with a subject so spirited, that every man, woman and child in the county was discussing it, and that every one of the ten newspapers in the county were devoting all available space in all manner of discussion and side discussions; when we realize that several dozen men on each side put in the major part of their time from sixty to ninety days, and from early morning until late at night, and that circulars and dodgers and hand bills and leading

articles were published broadcast and mailed systematically by both sides to every voter in the county, and that public meetings were held not simply weekly, but often for several nights in succession, we can see that it was a tense fight. Judge William D. Boies, of Sheldon, issued the main body argument from Sheldon's standpoint, which was published both by circulars and in the papers broadcast. Others joined and followed up his lines for Sheldon. Messrs. R. J. Locke, J. L. E. Peck and O. H. Montzheimer and others did the same thing from the view point of Primghar.

Summed up in brief sentence statements, the two sides made arguments from the following standpoints: Sheldon argued, first, that it had three railroads; second, that it had become a distributive point; third, that it was the largest town in the county and always would be; fourth, that farmers and others could get to court better by rail to Sheldon; fifth, that it had the better and ampler hotel facilities; sixth, that it would for all time show up better as a county capital; seventh, that from the south part of the county via Alton they could get up and back the same day; eighth, that Primghar had no adequate hotel, and, ninth, that it had better entertainments at court time and better stores for trading.

Primghar argued, first, that it was in the exact center; second, that trains were not always on time; third, that the automobile destroyed the railroad argument; fourth, that farmers to use the train would need a team to the local town first; fifth, that Sheldon was on the extreme west line of the county; sixth, that a farmer from any point in county could drive in and back same day; seventh, that for the long years to come Primghar would best serve; eighth, that Primghar would build a hotel, and, ninth, that court expenses of witnesses and jurors and others at ten cents per mile for all time to come would be larger at Sheldon than at Primghar.

As stated, there were forty-five hundred voters, or, as per one authority, forty-two hundred and seventy-six. In the first instance, twenty-four hundred and eighty-five voters signed the petition for relocation at Sheldon. Later on about nine hundred petitioners signed the remonstrance, and under the law were deducted. A few were struck off on account of having by some mistake signed twice, on both petition and remonstrance. From all of which one can easily see the excitements that necessarily took place.

The following is an exact copy of the record of the hearing before the board of supervisors held June 8, 1911.

"The board of supervisors finds that, after deducting from said petition the names of persons who are not legal voters of this county at the time they signed the same and the names appearing on the remonstrance which

also appear on the petition and certain duplicate signatures thereon, said petition for the relocation of the county seat at Sheldon has been signed by fourteen hundred and forty-seven legal voters of O'Brien county, Iowa, and that said remonstrance against the relocation of the county seat at Sheldon, Iowa, after deducting certain duplicate signatures thereon, has been signed by thirty-one hundred and sixty-three legal voters of O'Brien county, Iowa, as shown by the last census, either state or federal; that more legal voters in said county have signed said remonstrance than have signed said petition and that no vote on the proposition of the relocation of the county seat of the county be ordered."

The following is the tabulated list by towns and townships:

	Pringhar. Sheldon.	
Archer -----	32	3
Baker -----	107	49
Caledonia -----	150	36
Calumet -----	53	2
Carroll -----	59	84
Center -----	164	10
Dale -----	116	3
Floyd -----	6	118
Franklin -----	81	32
Grant -----	153	2
Hartley City -----	176	161
Hartley township -----	97	38
Highland -----	175	1
Liberty -----	170	1
Lincoln -----	101	26
Moneta -----	5	6
Omega -----	141	19
Paullina -----	191	45
Pringhar -----	258	--
Sanborn -----	337	66
Summit -----	116	6
Sutherland -----	192	10
Sheldon -----	2	716
Union -----	152	10
Waterman -----	127	3
Totals -----	3,161	1,447

THE LEGISLATURE.

During a part of the time of this canvass the Legislature of the state of Iowa was in session. Each side maintained a lobby of from five to eight men at the state capital, each sparring for a change in the law that would aid in increasing or decreasing the number on petition or per cent of vote required. Mills county had been for sundry years, and in several successive contests, in the throes of like fights, only much more tense than in O'Brien county. They were on hand with corresponding delegations and lobbies, and naturally joined hands with the respective sides in O'Brien county as their interests corresponded. This, also, added much to the county-wide discussion. In result, the Legislature passed an amendment to the law requiring that thereafter two-thirds of the voters according to the last census should vote for a removal before a relocation can be ordered instead of one-half, as had been the law prior thereto.

NEW HUB HOTEL AT PRIMGHAR.

It has been seen that one main fight made against Primghar was that the town did not have adequate hotel facilities for court occasions. It was true that it did not. The owner of the then main hotel, Peter Manderville, while he had invested about eleven thousand dollars in his hotel, and had built it of brick and of quite adequate size, had unfortunately built it between two other brick store buildings, which cut off the light and air, and had also failed to put in a heating plant, contenting himself with stove heat.

This stern reality brought Primghar straight up on her feet, or down on her knees, as it may be argued. Forthwith, immediately, and the same day, subscriptions for stock for a new hotel were circulated. In a sense it was grimly humorous. Primghar saw that she had to convince the public, and that quickly, that this hotel promised was a reality. A stock company was formed, and some one hundred and ninety-one separate stockholders subscribed. Time was the essence of the contract in real earnest. An architect was immediately on the ground. A contract was at once let to Hanson & Meyer, of Fort Dodge, for the building and to the Fort Dodge Plumbing Company for a heating plant, the total costing about a dozen dollars less than twenty-five thousand.

While Primghar was in fact delinquent in this hotel matter, and while Sheldon compelled its building by her county seat persuader, yet when Primghar did act her citizens did themselves proud and built a hotel that was

not only adequate, but a credit to the town and people county wide, for whose benefit it was built. We make the erection of this hotel an historic county item, for this very reason that it was built directly as a result of a twenty-four-mile-wide agitation, in this problem of a county-seat contest.

The building is of red pressed brick, in size forty by one hundred and ten feet, with twenty-three sleeping rooms, practically three stories high, including a fine basement, with steam heat, ample baths, barber shop, hot and cold water all completely finished in all modern appointments, dining room beautifully decorated, as are all other rooms, dining room accommodating as high as ninety guests at one sitting, with a complete equipment of furniture and kitchen utensils hotel size—in brief, in every way an up-to-date hotel.

A prize was offered for the name selected from names contributed. The prize was awarded to Miss Denia Peck, she dubbing it "The Hub."

GRAND OPENING.

A grand opening was held in the dining room of the Hub hotel, on the evening of December 8, 1911. Guests from all over the county numbering one hundred and fifty attended, forty guests alone coming from Sheldon. After the bountiful repast a program of speeches and toasts was indulged in. J. L. E. Peck acted as toastmaster. Speeches were made by Judge William D. Boies, of Sheldon, by Judge William Hutchinson, of Alton, who were followed by further speeches by David Algyer, Jacob H. Wolf, T. E. Diamond, C. P. Jordan, Sidney Kerberg, Fred Vetsch and Mr. Lindsay.

The sentiment of loyalty to one's town and surroundings and the up-building of the county was the prevailing theme. It was a curious and notable incident that the blue and the gray in the late fiery county-seat contest so soon met at the festal board at its new hotel and enjoyed an excellent program and menu so superb.

To sum it all up, these four county-seat contests were in reality the people of the whole county solving out its destiny in its growth and developments.

CHAPTER X.

OLD SETTLERS' REUNION.

Many gatherings of old settlers, in small groups and neighborhoods and townships, took place along through the early years.

But probably the first full-grown, county-wide reunion on a large scale of old settlers took place at Pringhar on August 31, 1889. The old homesteaders were practically all yet alive, and actually there. Hannibal House Waterman and Hannah H. Waterman, his wife, were the honored guests. The writer was present. He must pronounce it beyond question the grandest public function ever held in the county, even up to this 1914. It was representative of the idea that brought the great crowd of eight to ten thousand people together. It was not simply from one section of the county. Every township and town was largely there. It occurred only eighteen years distant from the first large incoming of the real citizen homesteader in 1871. While this same class of a reunion was repeated in 1894, 1899, 1904 and 1909, none of the later reunions reached in size or detail its equal. It was democratic. It was pioneer. The people were in fact there. The real homesteader was there; they were all there with their children. They were close enough in time to reach back to the real grasshopper and hay twister, to understand its true meaning, and yet it had struck into the high tide of the better prosperities. The trees in the court house park had reached a sufficient size to really make a shade. It was one of the greatest, as it was probably the last occasion when the real old settler and all of them were so universally present. At the succeeding reunions, many were dead. The later and lesser in numbers compared with the increasing numbers of new settlers began in the later reunions at intervals of five years to swallow the old homesteader up in the swim, as it were. On this occasion, August 31, 1889, the old homesteader had reached his climax. The bright day had dawned. The railroad at Pringhar had been built but two years, the new buildings had been completed, and its new people were on hand in dress parade to bid welcome. As this was one of the great occasions in the county that rises to the dignity of a county-wide historic occasion, and inasmuch as its details will include a weaving among those details much of the early situations, customs

and people, we will give the full account of same as published in the *O'Brien County Bell* the following week.

NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT OF THE REUNION.

The *O'Brien County Bell*, September 5, 1889: "From the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," but there is just no use in attempting to tell the story complete of the old settlers' reunion and harvest festival, held at Primghar last Saturday, for two reasons, first, the heart is too full, and the mouth is too small.

The morning came in beautiful, the sun appeared in its glory, the atmosphere was pure. By daylight every man, woman and child in Primghar was up and dressed for the occasion, ready to assist in making the day, as it was, one never to be forgotten by the thousands who were present. It goes without contradiction, that the assemblage of people was the largest and grandest that has ever occurred in the entire Northwest, outside of the thronged days at the Sioux City Corn Palace exhibition.

At sunrise occurred the national salute of forty-two guns, during which time those of our citizens who had not completed (the night before) their decorations, could be seen, some on roofs, others on boxes and barrels, tacking up bunting, stars and stripes, mottoes and pictures.

DECORATIONS.

First the reader will be, as was the visitor, introduced to the decorations as prepared by the Primghar people, from thence invited to follow these lines on through in regular order as the exercises of the day were carried out.

One-half mile from the court house, on all roads leading into the town, and at the depot, were suspended, eighteen feet high, large banners, "Welcome," each of which was decorated with either corn, flax, wheat, oats, hay-twists or vegetables of some description. By this it was made manifest to all visitors that they were expected, and further, that the town and inside of it belonged to them. Every house, public building, as well as numerous stables, sheds and fences were found ornamented with decorations of some sort. Front gates and sidewalks were arched over with beautiful designs, made of grain of all kinds, grasses, wild flowers, house plants and vegetables. Many of the arches bore appropriate mottoes. In the business part of the town, there seemed no way to enter except under mammoth arches at each of the four corners of the public square. At the northwest corner was an arch, or

rather arches, or cross arch from corner to corner, really a double arch, seventy feet square at the base and forty feet high, which was decorated with prairie flowers, wild thistles, corn and small grain, together with two hundred yards of bunting. At the foot of each arch was a shock of either corn or grain of some kind. An arch at the southwest corner was a duplicate of above. At the southeast corner of the square was an arch crossing the entire square seventy feet from corner to opposite corner, timbers from each corner rising to the center, pyramid shape, forty feet. The frame work was so constructed as to leave a large square, twenty feet high, in which were placed humorous paintings by Primghar's very clever artist, M. P. Messenger. One was represented as follows: Numerous grasshoppers were stripping stalks of green corn same as sugar cane stalks are stripped, with another large hopper starting out on a journey, apparently captain of this band of hoppers, bearing in his mouth a banner, "More to conquer." At the lower right hand corner of the picture was a long, lean, lank hog, poorer than Job's turkey. On his back was perched a large hopper, and on the ribs of the hog painted the words, "Spare rib," "Corn all gone." Another of Mr. Messenger's paintings represented the "Old Log Court House," with six county officers in view, with "Old Dutch Fred" standing at a distance, smoking his long pipe, as he was making that well-known remark, "I am de beeples, you fellows am de officers." As everybody knew, Dutch Fred was the only man in the county who was not an officer, there being only seven residents at that time. Still another painting represented a large grasshopper painted in colors bearing a mower sickle and reaper reel in his mouth, "O'Brien County Combined Reaper and Mower, 1876."

We next come to the imposing arch at the northeast corner of the square. It was indeed a surprise. George R. Slocum and George W. Schee each had a bank across from each other at this time at this northeast corner of the square, and they had challenged each other for the best donations and decorations. It was asserted at the time that this arch as a whole actually cost over three hundred dollars. This arch was forty feet square at the base and seventy feet high, two stories, with full stairway to ascend, and held several hundred people. The long procession passed under each of the four arches, but here the officers and committees reviewed the procession. This arch was pyramid in shape, built of heavy timbers, bolted together and self-supporting in the center to hold up the audience expected, the other arches being supported only at the corners. During the day the bands dispensed music from the top of this arch, and hundreds of people ascended the stairs to take a view of the crowds and country. High in the air, at this arch, was

suspended "Welcomes," made of kernels of corn. The entire structure was completely covered with grain of every description and design, mixed in with hundreds of yards of bunting. George R. Slocum had constructed a map of O'Brien county about six feet square, made up of every possible combination of ears of corn and the grains of all kinds of corn imaginable. It was claimed that had value of time been considered, one hundred and fifty dollars would not have done the work. It was taken to Sioux City to the Corn Palace for exhibition and later to the state capitol, so many wanting to see it. The four arches cost about five hundred dollars. When we state that the town raised more than one thousand dollars, exclusive of individual expense for the day, we can see the scale on which it was carried out.

The sidewalk from the front entrance to the court house was decorated in like elaborate style. Frank N. Derby was then county treasurer and Charles H. Winterble county auditor, and they vied with each other as to which could suggest the most original idea. This sidewalk of about eighty feet was one long, high arch, covered roof like; Japanese style. In size it was eight by twelve, and thirteen feet high. The roof was thatched with oats and grains, Japanese shape, all decorated very elaborately with the grains, ears of corn and its grains as appearance demanded. The north side, near the entrance, was finished with grain and corn stalks trimmed, being placed in such a manner as to leave a large diamond, three feet square, in the center, and in which appeared steel engravings of all the Presidents of the United States to Grover Cleveland, inclusive. This diamond was beautifully draped with the Stars and Stripes. The south side was dressed with grains of all kinds, together with grasses in the center, to correspond with the diamond on the north side, its three-foot diamond being worked in kernels of corn. The interior of the whole long archway was finished with all kinds of grasses interwoven in a multitude of forms.

The inside of the court house was similarly decorated, as likewise the entrances to and the inside of the offices themselves. Near to the stairway leading to the court room was a beautiful arch constructed with flags. Isaac Clements, who was then county recorder, and John W. Walters, clerk of the courts and whose offices were on the west side, made archway decorations on an equal scale.

THE PARK ITSELF.

The trees in the park were then eleven years old, planted in 1878. There were then probably ten times the number of trees as now, many being thinned out as they grew. These trees were all decorated in all manner of forms and

shapes. They were smaller then, the first limbs being then just about as high as one's shoulders, the right height for decoration. The invincible F. M. (Pomp) McCormack, of the *Bell*, made this work his special feature. He had enthusiastically gotten every merchant and business man in town to take it upon himself to decorate one tree. For instance, one tree for the "Press" was decorated by all sorts of hangings relating to the newspapers of the county and their editors.

The speaker's stand, twenty feet by sixty, four feet above ground, with a back wall eighteen feet high, was literally covered with flags and bunting. In front of the stand, nicely arranged, was a rope of flowers twenty feet long, and very beautiful, the work of Mrs. L. D. Wooster. Directly in front of the speaker's stand was a mammoth floral anchor, the work of Mrs. Frank N. Derby. At the noon hour sixteen long tables were constructed, one for each township and each eighty feet long, or a total of twelve hundred and eighty feet, the whole loaded, as was humorously remarked that day, containing enough provisions to have lasted the entire population of the county in 1860 (seven voters) from that time until the grasshoppers came. The old homesteader up to that date made all his bows and comparisons to the grasshopper.

At the northwest corner of the park, and clear across the corner, was erected a soldiers' monument, fourteen by fourteen feet at base and seventy feet high, which was headquarters all day for the old soldier homesteaders, and one hundred and forty old soldiers registered, though all did not get their names recorded. This monument was nicely and appropriately decorated in keeping with the other decorations of the day. Many of the business buildings were likewise elaborately decorated in various designs in corn and the grains. This subject can best be summed up by saying that everything and everybody in Primghar was decorated, and the streets were a sea of flags.

COMMENCED TO ARRIVE.

Many arrived as early as Friday, among them being Mr. and Mrs. Hannibal Waterman, the first citizens, Mr. John McCormack, the early-day hunter, and Uncle Don C. Berry, a very unique and early-day character.

Even as early as eight o'clock in the morning the people began to pour in; at eight-thirty it was estimated there were two thousand. The excursion train from Cherokee at eight-forty brought in several hundred, who were met at the depot by Assistant Marshal Charles F. Albright, the Hub Cornet Band and reception committee. By this time every highway leading to Primghar

was lined with teams as far as the eye could reach, some processions actually being two and three miles in length. At ten the excursion train from Sheldon arrived, every car packed with people, bringing their fine Sheldon Band. This delegation was likewise met with Pringhar committees. Next came the Sanborn and Franklin township delegation, headed by the Sanborn band. With the Paullina and Union and Caledonia township delegations came the Caledonia Brass Band, making in all six bands, including the Sheldon Drum Corps and Charley West's unique drum corps, composed entirely of members of his family. It seemed that every citizen of the county was there. Assistant marshals went out to meet the delegations from each township as they arrived.

THE PARADE.

"Fall in" was the order given by the marshals and old soldiers. The Sanborn band headed the procession. Next came Hannibal Waterman and wife, the first settlers, seated in the rear of a beautifully decorated carriage. The front seat was occupied by John McCormack, the deer slayer, Mr. Waterman's neighbor and noted hunter of the early days. At his left sat Miss Jennie Scott, holding the banner: "First Settlers of O'Brien county, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Waterman."

This carriage was surrounded by a band of Indians in war paint, apparently intent on capturing Mr. and Mrs. Waterman, picturing out the scenes and frights they had contended with. All this can only be described in part. The procession was lined with all kinds of banners and mottoes, and included all manner of old relics, horses over twenty years in the county, harness made of rope and hay twists, haytwisters twisting hay, as was actually done during the years and throwing them out to the crowd, with even sod shanties built on wagon floats. One banner read, "Dod blame it, boys, come on," being a very familiar expression of Capt. Andrew J. Edwards, an old homesteader, an old soldier and captain in the Civil War and ex-county auditor, 1872-1876. Another read, "How far is it to Paine's store," so many years standing on the treeless prairie in Highland. One large banner read, "In this (s) Wheat Bye and Bye," and was represented by two grasshoppers sitting on the fence looking over into a wheat field, one playing a musical instrument, while the other was doing the singing. A banner from Carroll read "1889 Prosperity and Friendship." Another read, "1880 Turn of the Tide." Another, "Common Schools the Hope of Our Country." Another, "1876, They Took It All, Still We Stay." As this last banner moved along, scores of spectators who lived here in 1876 could be seen wiping away the

tears, for they knew too well what it meant; the days when prayers were offered to take from them the grasshopper plague came fresh to their memories. The mother recalled to her mind those days of distress; that little boy or girl she could see again, with nothing scarcely to eat and less to wear; she beheld them clustering around on the boxes used for chairs endeavoring to keep warm by the old hay stove; she saw the labor of herself and husband vanish in a day before this unconquerable foe, the hopper, and in this affliction the parents' affection for their little ones became stronger and the child's for the parent, as they entwined themselves in actual embrace around papa or mama, even as the delicate tendrils of the ivy wound around the protecting and sheltering limbs of the sturdy oak. Those were indeed days of trial and desolation, and now, this August 31, 1889, the panorama was passing by—yes, mother and father beheld it in all its meaning. The plague was here, the earth was parched, distress was inevitable, the clouds of misery were enveloping them with its wrapper in stern reality; courage must hold out, and to withstand the storm was the only hope. What gave them hope? We will tell you. As the dew of early morning most refreshes and benefits the summer blossoms, so the sweet, trusting confidence and sublime simplicity of these children keep fresh the flowers of affection, and prevent the father's heart from becoming like a parched and sandy desert. But victory came at last.

Charles Slack, one of the oldest settlers from Grant, carried in the procession a beautiful fruit banner, upon which were many different kinds of fruit, all from his farm. Nothing "slack" about that. The Omega township delegation had a beautiful banner made entirely from the grasses and wild prairie flowers. As the procession passed sixteen guns were fired, one for each township. Gust Kirchner, the first settler in Clay county, was in the procession, and also Mr. Phipps, though not the first, one of the first from Cherokee county. The procession was one hour and thirty minutes passing a given point. It was claimed that the procession was between five and six miles long, besides which hundreds of teams did not get into it at all. It was said by many here from the other counties that no parade ever held in northwestern Iowa equaled it. At the stand two other banners found a place. "We came to see the father and mother of the county," and "We want to see the Old Folks, Pap and Mam." Prof. W. S. Wilson, for so many years head of the public schools at Sheldon, was chairman of the day. The address of welcome was delivery by J. L. E. Peck. D. A. W. Perkins was scheduled to deliver the main address, but failed to arrive, sending a letter instead which was read.

O'BRIEN COUNTY RELICS.

During the old settlers' reunion held August 31, 1889, the following relics were exhibited that related to O'Brien county people:

Canes secured by Capt. Robert C. Tift (Pringhar) during his sea voyages.

Mariner's compass, by Capt. Robert C. Tift.

War relics, by William Church.

Cedar knot from cedar tree on Waterman, by Mrs. Roma W. Woods.

Chair fifty-five years old, by Mrs. Hannah Waterman, used in their family.

Piece of first house built in county by Hannibal H. Waterman.

Indian mauls or war axes, by A. W. H. Stone and C. West.

Cluster of buffalo, antelope and deer horns, by Mr. Wells, of Highland.

Hog trough thirty-two years old, by H. H. Waterman.

Deer horns, by William King, of Highland.

Baby carriage used for Frank Tift, of Pringhar, when a baby.

Pocket book made in 1660, used in family of Capt. Robert C. Tift.

Captain Kane's panoramic views in the Arctic, by Captain Tift.

Picture frame and spoon carved by N. Remington in grasshopper times.

Spinning wheel used in family of Henry Buse seventy-five years.

Spike and brick taken from old school house in Grant. A brick made for same.

Sample of oak, walnut and cottonwood cut on Waterman creek and sawed at Peterson in 1870.

Silk dress, one hundred years old handed down in family to Mrs. C. F. Albright.

Photographs of early settlers, contributed by John Walters.

Photograph of first court house (log), contributed by Clark Green.

Letter head used by Arichbald Murray.

Knife used by John McCormack in killing and dressing over two hundred deer in O'Brien county.

Early maps of O'Brien county, by W. H. Gansul.

CHAPTER XI

AGRICULTURE.

A PRAIRIE COUNTY.

Iowa is a prairie state. O'Brien county was distinctly prairie. The grand sight of a broad prairie expanse is never to be witnessed again by O'Brien county people. The now large groves, the fences, the long lines of trees along the road sides, the tilled lands, the buildings and farm yards, the straight and squared up roads, the builded towns, the lines of railroads and telegraph lines and poles, the rural telephone lines, and many other items have each contributed to eliminate much of the idea and appearance of the original prairie.

Twenty-five miles of continuous waving prairie grass, from eight inches to four feet, and even five feet in height, solid hay so to speak, was in fact the grand sight as the original old settler saw it. In various places on this broad expanse of prairie was then often seen, with the sweep of the eye, five hundred to fifteen hundred head of cattle grazing on nature's wild pasture-
age, under one management of herdsmen. Millions of sweet williams, tiger lilies and other prairie flowers were like diamonds in the grass. No sweeter tame strawberries ever grew than the wild prairie variety. No boy or girl ever paid or dropped a cent into a slot machine for purer, healthier or better tasting gum than that boy gathered on the big rosin weed stalks, two varieties, high and low in height, growing in every slough. This grass formed and furnished not only free hay to the settlers, but was made into hay twists and served as fuel, which the poverty of the settlers could not have supplied with coal. For sundry years also large haying companies camped out in tents, and cut hundreds of acres, yea, thousands of acres, and baled and shipped it to Chicago and the East. Angling roads, proving that a straight line was the shortest distance between two points, ran everywhere. The long slough grass was used to stuff in between two rows of posts, with willow strips nailed thereon, and made into warm hay barns and sheds. Even roofs were thatched with it. The prairie grass seemed to make a tough, hardy sod, hard

to subdue in the first crop, or even for several crops, but was an utter failure to propagate itself. It had no seed. It moved out and grew from the roots. When once a plat of prairie sod, whether a rod square or five hundred acres, was broken or plowed up it never reestablished itself. It was forever done. Like Lo, the poor Indian, it could not stand civilization.

While mirages are still seen in the county, yet not so prominent as when the sun shone on a large expanse of the dead brown prairie grass in the fall of the year, producing those false rays or lines of light, producing an object in the distance at a higher elevation, sort of lifted up, in a hazy light cloud, as it were. For instance, in the early days Sheldon and Alton have been distinctly seen at Primghar, and vice versa, elevated in appearance in this way.

Another singular false appearance was often commented on when one viewed a whole township of wild, rolling, waving prairie grass, namely, that each way the eye gazed, it looked up hill. The rolling grass, with the sun shining and wind blowing, gave it all the appearance of a billowy, rolling sea of waves. Before Omega and Hartley townships were settled, those broad expanses of rolling prairie grass were often referred to as "Over in the Great Beyond."

Another gruesome and awful sight, never again to be seen in the county, was in the fall when this same great expanse of thousands of acres of waving grass was ripened and dead, and the fires had burned it over, all looking much like the judgment day was at hand, and that the Good Father had actually set fire to the whole thing and then had run off and left his mighty works to take care of themselves. But the next spring the "Green grass grew all round, all round."

LAND.

Land is the basis of wealth. This is especially true in agricultural Iowa. In O'Brien county it is especially true even with an Iowa measurement. Some other counties in Iowa have coal and lead and other items to give variety. In this county it is all exclusively farming. Its variety lays in its large numbers of crop and farm products. All estimates and enterprises in the county must hark back to the land. Everybody in the county must deal with the farmer or his land, and that direct. Interest on money went down as land went up. Prior to 1885 practically all land loans were ten per cent. From 1886 to 1896 they were eight, then went down to seven, then six, now five per cent. Prior to 1880 loans on land were only made in sums of five hundred dollars on a quarter. In 1890 loans of two thousand five hundred dollars were made, in 1900 from three thousand to four thousand dollars,

now eight thousand dollars to twelve thousand dollars, when needed. The writer hereof bought his first eighty acres of land in Highland township at two dollars and eighty cents per acre in 1879, which tract is now worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. In 1880 Herman Greve sold four thousand acres to George W. Schee for four dollars per acre. In 1877 Frank Teabout bought thirty-six hundred acres at two dollars per acre. As late as 1885 the writer and Mr. Schee together bought eight hundred acres for five dollars per acre, all now worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, though they in fact sold it all two years later at about twelve dollars per acre. As late as 1890 the expression was made many times by citizens that if "land ever reaches twenty-five dollars per acre I am going to sell." As late as 1902 it was selling from sixty dollars to seventy dollars. Its greatest bound has been during the past ten years, and even more true in the last five years, practically doubling in the last five to six years. The expression of Jurgen Renken, of Sheldon, as early as 1890, calling his land the Garden of Eden, was then treated not as a joke, but with a smile. But it now seems well settled that O'Brien county land (and nine-tenths of it is all the same in quality) is destined to command the top of most of the best counties anywhere in the country. Its crops, rains and results have been so uniform during a period of forty years that the fact is established. Actual sales verify it.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

O'Brien county has only two streams that rise to the dignity of rivers, The Little Sioux river runs through the very southeast corner of the county, meandering through about five sections of land. Its adjacent lands show up some hills that might be called bluffs, and provides rough pasture, being practically the only untillable acres in the county. It flows into the Missouri. This river sported a ferry boat for several years about 1870, and approached that near to furnishing the county with a maritime port of entry. That, however, was only a part of the gaiety of its earliest officials. The Ocheyedan river cuts through section 1 only, in the very northeast corner of Hartley township and the county. In breadth of river bottom or valley it might be taken for a much larger stream, from bank to bank of outlying hill in many places exceeding a mile. The mere stream itself, however, is no larger than many parts of the Waterman. The bed of the stream was in 1909 ditched and straightened under the drainage laws of Iowa, both Osceola and Clay counties joining. The Waterman runs north and south nearly the whole length of the county and empties into the Little Sioux near Waterman's ford.

It, with the township, was named for its first citizen, Hannibal H. Waterman. It is alternately called a creek and a river. It has some considerable bluffs down towards the Little Sioux. It traverses Hartley, Lincoln, Omega, Grant and Waterman townships. Mill creek runs through Center, Summit, Dale and Union townships and assumes respectable proportions before it reaches Cherokee, where it flows into the Little Sioux. The Floyd river flows through Franklin and Floyd townships in O'Brien county, while the Little Floyd river also courses through Franklin, runs close or into Floyd and across Carroll and joins the larger Floyd just west of Sheldon, and from this Floyd river the splendid water system of Sheldon is secured. The Floyd can hardly be dubbed a river for its size in O'Brien county, though it becomes quite a formidable river at Sioux City, where it empties into the Missouri. Dry run betrays its sometimes slackness in water supply in the bed of the stream itself, though the town of Primghar, in one of the few sand beds of the county on that stream, discovered that splendid natural filter for one of the best drinking water supplies of any town in the county. It flows through Center, Highland and Dale townships. Several lesser creeks in different townships flow into the streams named.

GROVES AND TREE PLANTING.

Three things have contributed to the hundreds of fine groves and parks now seen in the county. To plant a tree and see it grow is a natural desire. This becomes both poetry and prose when the eye looks over a treeless prairie expanse, or the intense sun calls for a shade, or a howling northwest wind demands a shelter, or the cook wants some stovewood.

However, there were two other prime causes that produced the actual grove in this and other counties in this part of Iowa. There was a federal law providing for tree claims and requiring the claimant of land in a new country to plant fourteen acres of trees on a quarter section, and to keep them growing in a thrifty condition for a given number of years. This produced many of our largest groves. Indeed, as practical farming developed, and land has advanced to now one hundred and fifty dollars per acre, a farmer cannot afford to devote that much high priced land to a grove.

There has been for forty years and more a state law of Iowa, passed as an encouragement to tree planting, permitting a deduction of one hundred dollars valuation for taxation purposes for each acre of trees thus planted, if kept in healthy, thrifty condition for a period of ten successive years. As land is now valued so high, it would not deduct enough to be an incentive.

But when land during this tree planting period from 1874 to 1886, was only worth about sixteen dollars per acre and the taxable value at about four dollars per acre, it can be figured that from four to five acres of trees would deduct half the taxes on a quarter section of land, and this grove would be about the right size for other purposes.

One great handicap was to get the trees at all, much less a variety. Tree agents could sell them, but the people in those times had no money to pay a price for a choice tree variety. The one available tree was the later-on almost despised cottonwood. These little slips, from a foot to three feet high, grew on the sand bars along the Missouri river by the hundreds of thousands and could be pulled up by the hand. Adam Towberman, a homesteader, made many trips to Sioux City and, with light wagon, could bring back fifty to a hundred thousand trees. He sold them from two to eight dollars per thousand. Soft maple slips were likewise procured, though more often maple seed by the bushel was procured and the little trees grown from the seed. White willow cuttings were planted also. Many little trees were actually planted in the tough unsubdued sod. It was then much of a public question and even debated in the lyceums and farmers' institutes. Others more fortunate procured choice varieties of young trees from the old homes in the East or from the nurseries, as ash, hard and silver maples, birch, chestnut, walnut, elm, the evergreens and other trees. In this year 1914 fully half of these cottonwood trees thus planted have been cut down, as likewise many willow groves. The long lines of cottonwood and willow trees along the road sides sapped too much high priced land. During those years it was the duty of the county auditor to establish these tree claims for taxation purposes on the tax list. George W. Schee and J. L. E. Peck were the auditors during the eight main years of this tree planting and claims for trees, namely, during the years 1876 to 1884. But as a result these fine groves were secured, giving so comforting a relief to the appearance of the country and to the homes, as likewise serving the people in many public gatherings.

WHAT IS RAISED ON O'BRIEN COUNTY SOIL.

In the first place, for thousands of years, it raised the luxurious prairie grasses. A soil that can produce such growths as were originally seen on the prairies of O'Brien county possesses the strength to grow any thing on earth corresponding to this latitude.

O'Brien county is proud of its mud, mud that is mud, the rich black loam stuff, the mud that smears the clothes and hands, the mud that hogs root up,

the mud that raises corn. While corn is king and chief, it is not a one-crop country, but is an all-around-crop country.

This rich black loam soil can grow weeds spelled in capital letters. It may not be creditable to a gardener or a farmer to find that garden or farm a weed patch. But it is creditable to a soil that it has the strength and durability to grow weeds, weeds, and still more weeds, year after year. O'Brien county is even proud of its weeds, its rank weeds, its great big weeds, three feet, four feet, five feet, six feet, as tall as a man, as tall as the best crops, all but as tall as the tops of King Corn. Its people are proud of both King Corn and King Weed.

"Where grows the lusty great big weed,
There man can safely plant his seed."

It is not the big weed that O'Brien county people frown upon, but rather upon the man who will slovenly let them grow to the extent of a weed crop. The historic fact, however, remains that our lands raise much more corn per acre than twenty years ago. Indeed up to as late as 1880 it was discussed by our own people whether in fact it was a corn country. It is the corn fact, long now established, that has added its now high price and value. These higher prices reached have produced also intense and better farming.

But O'Brien county has the man that scours the plow, that kills the weed, that saves the corn, that feeds the hog, that buys more land, that raises the grass, that feeds the sheep, that grows the wool, that clothes the kid, that feeds the horse, that pulls the plow, that plows the corn, that feeds the steer, that makes the meat, that sells for the cash, that buys the "House that Jack Built."

In other words, O'Brien county is strictly agricultural; being all the time cow, all the time steer, all the time horse, all the time hog, all the time butter and eggs, sometimes of everything, plenty to eat, no famines, no hunger, plenty all the time and to spare.

ITS EGGS NOT ALL IN ONE BASKET.

Did we ever grasp the full meaning and extent of that word or phrase as applied to O'Brien county? Do we fully measure it? That not only all the eggs are not in one basket, but that eggs are but one item in the basket, or, even still broader, only one of the items in the half hundred baskets. How many sections of country or communities are dependent on practically one item as an outlook for their families? When that fails, all fails. It may be

cotton. It may be rice and only rice. It may be a syndicate mill. When the mill stops, work stops. It may be some immense factory plant, with a strike on, when, after that, the judgment. It may be a rubber plantation or an all-fruit community, or a single fruit specialty. So many places it is one or none.

But in O'Brien county how different? A goodly number of hogs, it is true, may die. It is a loss. But the same disease will not ordinarily take off a bunch of horses or sheep at same time. One steer may die, but not usually a whole car load. Oats may be short, but corn is not dependable on the same days of growth or rain as the oat crop.

O'Brien county happily belongs to that part of the surface of the earth where its people are the chefs of the earth. They feed the world, the communities comparing to these situations. In doing this, its people are well fed themselves. Verily its eggs are not all in the same basket.

The following are among its egg baskets, not merely nominal egg baskets, but full-up baskets that bring the cash: Wheat, flax, blue grass, turnips, peas, vegetables, butter, cream, oats, millet, timothy, beets, tomatoes, fruits, milk, corn, hay, alfalfa, parsnips, cucumbers, flowers, cherries, rye, pasture, straw, carrots, melons, gardens, eggs, plums, barley, clover, corn cobs, onions, potatoes, pumpkins, cheese; Little Fillers—Horses, chickens, peacocks, cattle, ducks, pigeons, hogs, geese, bees, sheep, turkeys, mules, guinea fowls, farm labor, town avocations, trees for wood, railroad labor, rise in value of lands.

These are all items not merely that can possibly be raised, but are found in the total number on practically two-thirds of our farms, as annual revenue producers.

The O'Brien county farmer safely sleeps on his bed of ease with the happy and secure thought that it seldom occurs that any considerable number of the above egg baskets are dependent on the same destructive storm or disaster, and never does it occur, or has it occurred (save in the one and only one grasshopper scourge in an early day, when the measure of crops was small), when either all, a half, or even a large number of same have been at such a risk.

Other countries have famines as historic incidents. O'Brien county has for thirty-five successive years had its regular crops in plenty as its annual item of history. This statement that all O'Brien county eggs are not in one basket becomes a truism and an established fact. These now nearly two score successive crops fixes this historic value, "To have and to hold in permanency and tenancy in common for all its people." Filled with plenty, here stands the Hope Box of O'Brien county.

FROZEN SOIL HEAVES UP AND DOES BUSINESS.

O'Brien county is in a cold, yet temperate latitude. The forty-third parallel of north latitude passes east and west through the county, two miles south of Primghar, or two degrees or one hundred and forty miles south of midway between the equator and the North pole, the best part of the temperate zone. We have cold winters and often heavy snow. Of course it is cold. It tingles the fingers and the cheek. Comfortable houses are needed, and such buildings are found universally on the farms. Plenty of coal is necessary. Cold weather is healthy. It thickens the blood. Nature accommodates itself. The body adapts itself. It is a dry and not a damp cold, however, during its colder period. Cold puts vim into people. It makes them hustle, walk faster and work harder, and the work brings results. It generates activity and energy in both man and the soil. It heaves it up and starts it moving. It reorganizes its parts. The soil doesn't lay dead still all winter as in the southern climates. Its melted snows in the spring are equal to rains. The snow banks and snow contain a sediment or quality even superior to rain. Freezing and rain and snow are the farmers' best hired hands. Our people say, let it freeze; simply hustle and keep from freezing. Everybody has his heavy overcoat for driving, and when working it is not needed.

O'BRIEN COUNTY IS UNIFORM IN MANY WAYS.

In the first place, the county is uniform in its shape, a perfect square, twenty-four miles each way. Its sixteen townships are each uniform in size, six miles square. Possibly we should make the exception that the city limits of Sheldon have been made a township known as Sheldon township. This was done that it might always have two justices of the peace within its corporate limits. Its highways also are practically uniform, namely nine-tenths of its road mileage runs east and west and north and south, and on section lines. The percentage of irregular roads is very small. This uniformity is made possible by reason of its being uniform in so many other respects. It is uniform in its topography. In the main it is a level county. It is gently rolling, but these gentle rolls or undulations are quite similar in size throughout the county. Its original prairie conditions were also uniform. The same prairie grass covered all its surface. Its surveys and boundary lines between land owners are in the main uniform straight lines. It has no meandering boundary lines. Its very soil is equally uniform and of about the same quality, being all a rich, black loam. The same prairie growths and

grass for thousands of years could produce none other than a uniform soil. Its underpinnings, or subsoils, are likewise of universal sameness, a clay slightly mixed with sand, that allows the rains and water to go down and up. These subsoils, or filtered underpinnings, form a continuous strata and reservoir for nature's supply of the purest water, and which renders the crops so uniform in both quality and quantity. While this strip or that may at times get a larger supply of water than another, yet inasmuch as there are such a variety of crops maturing at different seasons of the year, it is true to the fact that never in fifty years will these dry streaks for a month hit all the crops of the year. As a round up each year, taken separately, the crops are well distributed from farm to farm. As a result O'Brien county has never had a famine. Resulting from this sameness, its drainage in regularity and with scarcely a damage, follows. It does not have monster ditches to be dug like in many other counties, with heavy assessments to be levied for a seven-year period, making a lien equal to a mortgage. In the whole period of the county it has only had one county ditch, and that cutting across one single section of land, in the very corner section of the county, at the northeast corner, in straightening out the Ocheyedan river, where it cuts across that one section of land. Both Osceola and Clay counties are burdened with many miles of this ditch. In many counties, even in quite uniform Iowa, these big ditches become very much of a burden. O'Brien county drainage is limited to mild tiling, small in comparison. The land is all so very much alike in all its qualities and conditions that each eighty or quarter section is able to amply drain itself. Even each small farmer is king and manager of his own little farm and kingdom. In many extremely flat counties, even in Iowa, and more markedly in the extremely flat portions of northern Minnesota, the drainage of any one farm is so dependent on a co-operative drainage of a whole township or more that the small farmer is swallowed up in the swim and drowned out, and thereby ceases to be a full-grown director of his own affairs. Neighbors, it is true must yield to each other in the natural accommodations of drainage from little into big tile and paying the difference as will accomplish the movements of the surface waters and at same time keep every foot of soil in cultivation. But in O'Brien county this has been such a mild question that actual litigations relating to same in the whole period of the county could be counted on the fingers of one hand. This tiling becomes simply a part of ordinary farming. As a further result, its wells, both for the farm houses and for stock, are both uniform in the fact that ample water is found on every farm and can be secured in the main on all parts of the farms, and at quite uniform and reasonable

depths. Digging wells simply involves in most cases the mere value of labor in the digging. It is not a big problem, as in many states. The quality of all water in its wells follows suit with the other uniformities. Having no minerals or oils of any kind in the county, the water is free from acids or alkalis. Its boundary lines all being straight, it follows that its fields for this and that crop are or may be made in square form or at least in parallel proportions. There are but few point rows in the corn. The wire stretcher on the corn planter can quite generally be made the length of the full quarter section. Its very few little fringes of timber, limited indeed to but a few tracts down on the Waterman and Little Sioux, conduce to this. Very few farmers need to build even a culvert, much less a bridge for the mere farm accommodation. Two of its main railroads run almost a bee line east and west through the county and cut those farms in square lines. Its rain falls are quite uniform from year to year. There is much sameness also in that the whole energies of the people are devoted to agriculture. We practically have no factories. The nearest approach to a manufacturing idea would be the Big Four mills at Sheldon, employed in the manufacture of flour, but even that is distinctly agricultural. Its people are uniform also in this, that as a mass they all Americanize. Our foreigners are all of the agricultural idea, becoming at once a part of loyal America, and satisfied with O'Brien county conditions and prosperities. Its farms in size are well distributed. Its large farms or ranches, as we have seen, are scarce. It is not, perhaps, uniform as a one-crop country, but it is uniform in its variety of its farm crops and stock. On every farm, large or small, may be seen something of the county-wide results, wheat, oats, corn, barley, vegetables, hay, pasture, farm homes, cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, a full line of farm machinery, with each farm and farm family sufficient unto itself. We have no frictional foreign elements in the county, or divisions of people that fail to assimilate or to become a mutual part of the common mass. Its school houses even, in the main, are two miles apart. Often we hear the expression that this and that road through the county, and this, too, for the whole twenty-four miles, is a school house road, so regularly are they built. Its children are also uniformly in the schools for the uniform school year of nine months, and therefore its people uniformly can read and write. Its people are uniformly of the white race. Two colored men only homesteaded in the county, and one other colored man resided for some years in the early period at Sheldon, but they, even, are long since gone. At this date, 1914, and for more than ten years not a single colored man has resided in the county, and this, too, not because they have been notified to remove or have been driven out, simply the question never

arises. The county positively has no race question, colored or otherwise. Its people all freely affiliate and intermingle on all public matters. The county has always been free from chronic feuds. It is the very opposite of Breathitt county, Kentucky. As a result its courts, during all the years, have been uniformly free from notable criminal trials. Its public and private life fill no place in head lines of the daily papers. It can truly be said that ninety-five per cent of its people are independent and self-supporting within themselves and their own efforts. This is uniformity calling for a record mark. Its towns, its townships and its individuals, like the county, have practically rid themselves of the serious debts and conditions in this history recited as part of its early pioneer troubles. Often do we hear the remark, that when you look at or inspect one tract or quarter of land in O'Brien, you have seen it all. It has no sand dunes, or sand beds, of miles in extent, not one single case, and no extensive gravel pits, to make the farms or country spotted or scabby either in appearance or for use. It is all the "same black stuff," in truth and fact, as we hear so many times stated, not by the mere land agent, but the sober owners of the farms. This one uniformity has deceived some good O'Brien people, or their sons, in later years, in attempts to purchase cheaper lands in other states, where it is spotted in all those irregularities of sand and gravel, swamps and lakes, jagged hills and pot hole sloughs, with perhaps neither outlet nor inlet, as seen in many other counties. Neither do we find those long stretches of hard pan, stumpage, lack of wells and water, big ditches and other bad features in farming communities. This expression, "when you see one farm you see it all," means much to O'Brien county. Probably there is not one county in fifty in the whole United States where uniformity in so many lines, and on nearly all agricultural lines, is so prominent. In result, its whole seventeen thousand people are uniformly contented.

FRUITS.

While O'Brien county is not a fruit county in specialty, it has surprised its own people in this line. In the raising of corn, it was long discussed in the early years whether it would be a corn country or not, yet now we are in the midst of the great corn belt. Likewise with fruits, it was similarly discussed. It is this much of a definite success, that practically three-fourths of all the farms have bearing orchards of good size, which makes the test. The culture of fruits has not, however, reached the stage wherein shipment of fruit has been seriously an item. It has no lakes, rivers or other waters to temper the atmosphere or weather. Our quite rigorous winters limit the

fruits to the hardier varieties. The local towns as yet consume the entire output that can be spared by the farmers. However, this item as a farm revenue producer is no small matter. The home fruits sold in the local towns have a freshness that is not always secured in fruits shipped in. On public occasions in the county many varieties of fruits of the larger and smaller varieties are exhibited. The home fruits raised do this much, they add decisively to the daily bread of our people within themselves, and insure even in this item the independence of our people.

WILD PRAIRIE FLOWERS.

A lady who grew up from childhood on the prairies of Highland township handed us the following list of wild prairie flowers. There may be many others: Buttercup, blue bell, crocus, flax, golden rod, indigo flower, purple or prairie apple, shoe string, tiger lily, white prairie flower, sweet william, wild rose, lady slipper, violet. In the fringes of timber along the Waterman and Little Sioux there are also a few timber varieties.

PUBLIC FARM MODERNISMS.

The county has its full complement of rural free deliveries, telephones, cream stations, creameries, farmers' elevators and other organizations and facilities connected with farm life. There being ten towns well distributed in its territory where each of these modernisms may be found, it also follows that practically every farmer has access to each. Each town telephone exchange, large or small, now has direct connections with from five to fifteen farm phone lines and each town has from two to four rural free deliveries. The farm elevators, while they do not handle all the grain or sell all the coal, maintain competition.

PUBLIC ROADS SHOULD REMAIN FOUR RODS WIDE.

The development of our public roads is a part of our county history. As time moves on this item becomes more important. The automobile and motorcycle and the movement of heavy machinery have each increased this importance. These new necessary movements prove that they should remain sixty-six feet wide. Yet how often do we hear it expressed that they should be reduced to forty feet, pointing out a few weeds at the side of the roads at the present time as a reason. Let the little items seen every day on any ten

miles of roads in the county give the answer. The farmer should be safe with his load of grain, as likewise the automobile man and transient.

We see automobiles everywhere, whirling on with momentum and speed, with flash lights to scare a horse, and human life on board, all at the mercy of the momentary emergency and of the driver who should have ample room to meet and dodge the other moving objects as he meets them. At one moment it is a horse and buggy, with a lady and a baby in her arms, who has dropped her lines. Next it is four o'clock, with a dozen school children on the highway ready to bautre a dare with your auto or hitch on behind a wagon. Then the dare-devil motorcycle thunders by at sixty miles an hour. Just at that point in the road is a road grader with six horses and a half dozen men to pass, with tools strung along the road. A little further on is met a big modern traction engine, drawing a threshing outfit in three parts, one behind the other. Then of a sudden you see coming a big hay rack with thirty children out for a picnic. Then you pass a funeral procession, and all at once appears, out of a narrow lane between a row of willows, a couple loads of corn, with wagon beds three box high. Then all at once here comes the usual caravan and tribe of gypsies, with twenty horses, tied in bunches of four, with no block system to keep them on or off the track. Then you meet a farmer driving fifty fat steers to market, a bunch of sheep, a half dozen loads of hogs, then a well augur outfit, then fifty chickens, some guinea hens, twenty rapid moving ducks, and likely a fierce dog to race with the auto for fifty rods. The road tiling and drainage also needs space.

This sixty-foot road will all ultimately be graded from side to side, not in humps, but like Michigan avenue in Chicago, even and symmetrical, and the future history of road building of the now eleven hundred and fifty miles of roads in O'Brien county will record the fact that it is all needed in the future developments of travel and drainage and safe movement.

FARMERS' MEETINGS, INSTITUTES AND STOCK SALES.

This being strictly an agricultural county, farmers' institutes have been regularly and annually held, alternating in the several towns. These have been supplemented by farm festivals, harvest home gatherings, watermelon days, corn-judging contests, horse shows, nail-driving contests, and county, district and ladies' fairs. These sundry gatherings are on many occasions represented by specialists and instructors from our State Agricultural College at Ames, illustrating that this college bureau of farm information is in real touch with the actual occupations. The farm auction sales also occupy

somewhere in the county two-thirds of the days in the fall and early winter, and again in the spring, and rise higher than merely auctions. The public does not tire of them. Such auction sales as conducted by auctioneers W. S. Armstrong, John Cowan, Frank Myers, Charles Hopfe, Edward O. Evans, P. A. Leese, J. N. Burson and J. A. Benson, become also schools of farming where the farmers and stockraisers meet and exchange practical ideas of farming, stockraising, crops, values and markets.

NO MINERALS OR COAL IN THE COUNTY.

The people did make two little staggers at the coal question. On January 7, 1874, the board of supervisors of the county passed a resolution offering a reward of one thousand dollars to any person who would make the discovery of a vein of coal not less than three feet in thickness and of actual merit. However, nothing ever came of it, and we mention it simply as an item to show that it was discussed. The geologist, however, has probably settled beyond a question that nature's great elements in the original upheavals of creations of the crusts of earth in the county, did not provide for the county either minerals or coal. It is not in the cloth for O'Brien county. It is strictly agricultural. With no waste land, in this fact, it has its compensations. At the June session of the board of supervisors for 1889 the board offered a prize or reward of twenty-five dollars per ton for one hundred tons of coal at any time mined in O'Brien county.

LARGE RANCHES.

O'Brien county has been blessed in having its lands well distributed in small sized farms. She has had no colonies settle as renters on lands owned by large syndicates or nonresident landlords, like some of the surrounding counties. Practically all her large farms have been managed by actual citizens. We will make note of a few large farms.

D. EDWARD PAULLIN.

In 1880 D. Edward Paullin, after whom Paullina was named, bought nine sections of land in Dale and Union townships and proceeded at once to put on very large improvements. It was all broken up. He expended from fifteen to twenty thousand dollars in improvements and machinery. Indeed his ranch buildings were little towns of themselves. He was an English-

man and was a stirring man. He farmed on a very large scale, until November, 1883, when he sold to Hudson Mickle. He later resided in Lemars, in Plymouth county, where was a large colony of Englishmen, including the Close brothers, James B. and William B., who held large landed possessions in both Plymouth and Osceola counties. Mr. Paullin was killed in a game of polo about 1903 at Lemars. Hudson Mickle farmed all those lands on a similar scale for the seasons of 1884-85-86. These lands were later divided up into ordinary sized farms and sold.

FRANKLIN TEABOUT.

In 1874-75-76-77 Franklin Teabout, a man of much vim and energy, opened up several large ranches on sections 25 and 36 in Lincoln, and sections 3, 10, 11, 14 and 25 in Summit and another ranch in Clay county. In 1877 he bought thirty-six hundred acres, at fifty cents per acre, with taxes on same to be redeemed of one dollar and fifty cents per acre, of Daniel T. Gilman, of Sioux City, same being part of the above lands. Mr. Teabout was an actual farmer and actual citizen. He erected quite extensive buildings on his main ranch on section 36, in Lincoln, which, with its many renters and ranch hands, made up quite a colony. Mr. Teabout had had a remarkable and successful career in large farming in Winnesheik county, Iowa, the small town of Franklin, in that county, being named for him and the seat of his farming operations there. He and William H. Valleau were the first merchants and grain buyers in Sanborn and other points. He was the father of Mrs. George H. Valleau, of Sanborn. These lands also were long ago divided up and sold.

JOHN H. ARCHER.

John H. Archer has filled many large fields in the county. This item is but an enumeration of large farms and farming operations in a group. In extent of acres, being about thirty-five hundred acres in actual farming, in and around Archer, Iowa, named for him, his is the largest tract in continuous farming for the long series of years in the county, farmed and managed by one man. Mr. Archer has personally superintended each tract, by direct oversight from crop to crop, item to item. He has carried it out from the basis of small tracts under various arrangements of rentings and otherwise, rather than as one farm. This is by no means the limit of his land holdings, he being the owner of sundry landed interests in other places. He came from England when a young man, and married the daughter of a

farmer, E. L. Ballou. He has bought land from year to year, and held on to everything once purchased. The gradual, if not to say phenomenal, advance in land values in the county during his time in the county has proved the wisdom of his policy relating to land.

CHESTER W. INMAN.

Chester W. Inman was, after Hannibal H. Waterman, among the first four real farmers who, in number of acres, arose above the quarter section proposition. He came in 1868. He was also one of the early actual citizens who became a county official, he being county treasurer and also was a member of the board. He opened up a large ranch of five hundred and eighty acres on section 26, in Grant township on the Waterman. The spot of his residence was one of the few really picturesque and scenic farm residences in this locality. O'Brien county was mainly a plain level of merely prairie sameness. The bluff here on the Waterman would even be somewhat of a bluff on the Missouri river. It was an ideal spot for the poetic or romantic. It seemed pitiful that his public turmoils and individual private property tribulations should have prevented the enjoyment of his dream, for he it said Mr. Inman and family were people who could have enjoyed the picturesque. He was a man of considerable breadth. He attempted to farm on a large scale through the grasshopper scourge and discouragements. He built what was in those times considered a mansion, costing in those cheapest of times some thirty-five hundred dollars, and in truth was beyond the times, and big farming could do none other than fail, and he lost all. This residence was a three-story building, with a large hall in the third story, evidently constructed with a special idea of large entertainments and gatherings.

MISCELLANEOUS LARGE FARMINGS.

Among the large farms of a section of land in size we might also mention those of Joseph Hain and John Bowley, in Floyd, of Oliver M. Shonkwiler and George W. Schee, in Hartley township, of Hector Cowan, in Dale, of Neil McKerrall and Frederick G. Frothingham, in Union, the Rodgers section in Caledonia and the farm of Mathern Brothers (Frank and Antone), in Highland.

JONATHAN A. STOCUM.

Jonathan A. Stocum had for many years been an instructor in Bryant & Stratton's Commercial School in Chicago, but at intervals had purchased

sundry O'Brien county lands at tax sale during the years when its affairs were in trouble, but in 1871 he had procured many tax titles on same and proceeded to open up a large ranch of eight hundred acres in Lincoln township, and farmed the same until his death in 1891. He resided in Sanborn and conducted his ranch from there. He was not simply farming, but was a breeder of fancy stock, the inventory of his estate showing some forty fine bred horses and other stock in proportion. His was among the earliest efforts at the better grade stock proposition in the county. Further references will be made to Mr. Stocum in the section relating to Sanborn, he having been the pioneer attorney there, and, with John Lawler, a high official of the Milwaukee road, having platted Stocum & Lawler's addition to Sanborn, and engaged in other of the early town of Sanborn enterprises.

SAMUEL J. JORDAN.

Samuel J. Jordan was among the early settlers in Grant township, and opened up a ranch of eight hundred acres. He has been among the few of the large ranch owners who has continuously resided actually upon the land itself during all the years, and conducted in person his large farming operations and stock raising direct from his family residence. As his sons, Ralph C. Jordan, now a member of the board of supervisors, and Clay P. Jordan, of Jordan's Bank at Sutherland, have grown up they have become a practical part of the broadening business of both farming and banking. They have also been among the few large farmers who have included in and incorporated as a part of their large farming all those modern, up-to-date and highly developed devices in the construction of barns, buildings, water works, dairying and machinery equipments, even in the details, on the lines as taught and suggested at Ames Agricultural College. Other items will appear as to this family under other heads.

CHAPTER XII.

EDUCATIONAL.

The educational feature was one of the earliest, as it is likewise one of the chief and present, thoughts of the people of O'Brien county. They adapted themselves to what they were able to do. Though they could not build a sixty-thousand-dollar brick school building, they insisted on the school nevertheless and built the shack school house, even as they themselves lived in the shack shanty. They even held school in the old log court house. But the primal fact remained that they kept school. In the simple town plat of Old O'Brien, the old county seat in 1860, on the first fly leaf of record deed book "A," the first deed record book of the county, a block is set apart for a school site. Clark Green and James Roberts did the same for Pringhar when the town was surveyed out with a four-foot lath, which was the fact. Indeed the school block has been among the first blocks platted in every town in the county.

The schools of the county are under the immediate supervision of the county superintendent. Prof. J. J. Billingsly is the present incumbent of that office. This has been the one sacred office in the county, so considered and so dealt with in fact, and has been kept largely out of and free of politics. The elections to this office have resulted meritoriously. Its school superintendents have mainly been persons of ripe experience along the lines of educational work. For instance, Miss Ella Seckerson filled the office for ten years from January 1, 1892, to January 1, 1902, and prior to which time she had held a position as one of the corps of teachers in the Sheldon high schools for many years. Miss Nellie Jones was superintendent of schools for seven years, from January 1, 1902, to January 1, 1909, with a well equipped experience of fourteen years as teacher and a large portion of the time as lady principal of the same Sheldon high school. Prof. J. J. Billingsly, now completing his sixth year as county superintendent, had served Pringhar six years, Sanborn six years and Paullina three years, as superintendent of their high schools. David Algyer, superintendent six years, was school principal in Sanborn. Here is one period alone of twenty-nine years wherein

the office has been presided over and had the ripest experience of four veteran educators of the county.

Educators who can and did supervise large bodies of children, dealing with parents and boards and school subjects, were the ideal candidates for the still larger powers of organization necessary to manage the machinery needed to educate five thousand five hundred and ninety-nine children, according to the last official report from this office; with supervisory business connected with twenty-two boards; with about two hundred teachers; with about one hundred and thirty-three rural school buildings; with about two hundred school officials, including school treasurers and secretaries, the various functions being like companies, regiments, divisions and brigades, moving systematically with military precision and with one common aim. We also note the fact that in each case of the four superintendents above named, as likewise the earlier superintendents mentioned below, their years of experience were in O'Brien county schools, which gave to them the peculiar local knowledge of facts and conditions within the county.

The high schools in the six main towns are now accredited schools, entitling the high school graduates to enter the several colleges of the state without further preparatory work.

Three of the high schools of the county, Sheldon, Hartley and Sutherland, have met the requirements and have been appointed as normal training schools for the rural school teachers, entitling those three high schools to receive an annual appropriation of about seven hundred and fifty dollars each, or about sufficient, or a little more, to pay a qualified instructor. These normal training schools are intended to fill the same place for the rural school teacher that the State Normal Training School at Cedar Falls furnishes to the aspirants for high school positions. The Primghar high school was also so designated in 1914.

Among the earlier county superintendents, Harley Day was superintendent of the Primghar schools four years, Stephen Harris three years, Miss Bell Cowan two years and C. H. Crawford two years. Thus we see that in all eight of its county superintendents had had a large experience in O'Brien county public schools.

We mention these four first because they are the last and recent superintendents, and have each had long terms in which to fully organize and carry out the policies of our present magnificent school system under its modern equipments. We should not, however, forget the very great service rendered by the early and pioneer school superintendents from 1870, when the settlers

arrived, in the persons of Stephen Harris, D. A. W. Perkins, Jesse A. Smith, A. B. Chrysler, Harley Day, David Algyer, C. H. Crawford and Miss Isabella Cowan. These superintendents were each highly educated persons, and in each case had had experience in the several schools of the county. Their terms were shorter (except Mr. Algyer, who served six years) and were handicapped by the pioneer conditions, buildings and equipments. We also note the fact that in every case of all this large number their experience as teachers and educators was had in our own O'Brien county schools.

The writer hereof saw in the early days of this county school houses built with only a one-side slant roof. But, mark the fact, they kept school. The writer, in the seventies, attended sundry lyceums, school programs and debates in some of those primitive school buildings that would do credit to some of the later contests for oratorical championships. An item elsewhere in this history refers to the Baker Library Association, maintained for so long a period, organized as it was in the very earliest day of the homesteader, and which is even yet maintained at Sutherland as one of the definite educational features. Relating to libraries, we might also add that each high school in the county is equipped with a working library of reference works and volumes covering the usual list of subjects found in most libraries. Even many of the rural schools have libraries conforming to their measure, ranging from twenty to three hundred volumes in the several country school buildings. The office of the county superintendent, at the court house in Pringhar, sets the example of six hundred volumes of a well selected teacher's library, covering the desirable subjects.

We have spoken elsewhere of the laudable and appreciated work during now sixteen years of George W. Schee, in his encouragement and large financial aids in the various public schools of the county, of his prizes given in the way of trips to Washington, the Buffalo Exposition, to Pike's Peak and the West, of groups of the champion scholars in the public schools, as educational features, and of his efforts in the education of loyalty and patriotism to the country, in the furnishing of a flag, the Stars and Stripes, to be displayed on every school house in the county, as an educational aid, as well as a high ideal in moral uplift.

Indeed, all information, communication, moral uplift or training on any goodly line, whether proceeding from the home, the church, the school, the press, the courts or other sources, is educational. These desirable conditions are everywhere to be seen, felt and enjoyed by our citizens.

The school buildings and equipments throughout the county have grown in size, in value, in quality, and facilities proportionately as the county has

increased on other lines. In these very conditions we observe an education within itself. This is especially notable in the construction of the twenty to sixty-thousand-dollar brick school buildings in the several towns. No better comparison of the relative conditions of, say, three periods in the school development of one of our towns can be made than first a reference to the small one-story frame school building, about the size of the usual rural school building in the country, first erected in Sheldon in 1873, immediately as it became a town; then the second building, still a wooden frame, but two stories high, with still the stove heat and other items corresponding, and then the final three-story brick structure, with a heating plant alone whose cost would have built at least three school buildings like the first named, with all modern features that go with it. Perhaps at this point we should make note of the one great calamity to Sheldon's first modern brick building, which was burned in the year 1904, it being indeed the only large school building ever burned or destroyed in the county. We must also note how, like Chicago, before the embers and ashes were cold, its more than duplicate was planned and carried at once to completion. The school buildings and equipments and public developments, in which we take a pride and which become all but sacred, may meet with disaster and be destroyed, but the ideal sentiments back of them, and the determination to rehabilitate and even again enlarge upon them, cannot be consumed or blotted out.

One item is noticeable in the construction of all our school buildings in the several towns, namely, that they are all built not for a day, but, in size and proportions in the different rooms and departments, for the growing future of the years to come. For instance, the assembly rooms in the several buildings, that now perhaps have from sixty to one hundred seats, are in fact built to hold from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and fifty, with all other details and offices and accommodations to correspond. Also, for instance, while all the towns in the county do not at this date conduct classes for the girls in domestic science or the art of cooking, or a manual training in the trades for the boys, yet the rooms are provided for this work and the idea of growth held out, which will all come as a certainty in due time.

The high school buildings in the county are now also equipped with gymnasiums, thus taking into account the benefits of athletics, basket and base ball and other games and, indeed, all those features belonging to recreation and building up of the body. To these may be added the sundry connections of each school through its several teams for physical and mental

contest, in their relations with the district, state and interstate leagues representing those fields.

The schools of the county have also made much headway in meeting the requirements of the sanitary laws and rules of the state board of health. At this date there are about fifty modern heating and ventilating systems in the rural school buildings and many are equipped with sanitary drinking jars and individual drinking cups.

Our high schools have not only libraries of books, but are provided with desirable daily newspapers, county papers and magazines. There are now ten newspapers published in the county, which contribute much to general educational advantages.

In addition to these direct school equipments, are numerous private libraries in the homes, as well as the daily papers found there, with other magazines and periodicals finding their way to the school rooms. It is probably a safe estimate to say that close to three thousand copies of daily papers are taken in the homes and offices of the county.

O'Brien county has its full share of telephones and rural free deliveries, all furnishing information and educational advantages not merely to the children, but their parents, and even to the transient within the county.

The lecture courses and chautauquas have a good showing in this county. Indeed it is not merely a showing, but continual courses from year to year and for now about fourteen to sixteen years have been held in the larger towns, and lesser and corresponding efforts in the smaller towns. Practically all the leading educators, ministers, politicians and men of note on all lines have been heard in one or other of the towns of the county.

We must not omit the large force of the church as an educator. This feature has received its full notice in the sundry items of church history herein given. The local press, consisting at this date of ten papers in the county, may well be considered a part of the educational features. The press will be noticed in a special article.

The several county superintendents since 1870 have held annual teachers' institutes, of from one to two weeks. This is in the nature of a normal training school, covering all those general questions found in the high and rural schools, the subjects and classes being conducted by the county superintendent and special educators employed, for which a fund is appropriated from the revenues of the county. This institute also keeps well in hand all those proper organizations throughout the county connected with school affairs, including their relations with school officers, and other general questions and bodies.

There are also several parochial and church schools. The German Lutheran church at Germantown, in Caledonia township, has for about thirty years conducted a parochial school in connection with their large church. This school is methodically arranged in grades and has all the facilities equal to a full high school course. Indeed many of the branches taught, including the languages, the higher mathematics, the classics and other higher studies, lift it well up to the academic or even the collegiate standard. The township being practically all German, that language is given precedence. The St. John's Lutheran Evangelical church in Center township, as likewise the German Lutheran churches at Calumet and Hartley, hold courses of study and regular school instruction in connection with their churches. The Catholic church, as will be seen elsewhere, does likewise for its people in its various churches in the county. The Friends church in Highland township does a similar work along the lines of that society.

The following is a complete list of the county superintendents since 1860, with the inclusive calendar years during which they served: Hannibal H. Waterman, 1860; John J. Jenkins, 1861; George Hoffman, 1862; Moses Lewis, 1863-1868; Chester W. Inman, 1869; Stephen Harris, 1870-1872; D. A. W. Perkins, 1873; Jesse A. Smith, 1874-1875; A. B. Chrysler, 1876-1877; Harley Day, 1878-1881; David Algier, 1882-1887; C. H. Crawford, 1888-1889; Isabella Cowan, 1890-1891; Ella Seckerson, 1892-1901; Nellie Jones, 1902-1908; J. J. Billingsly, 1909, and still serving.

RURAL SCHOOLS GROW SMALLER AS THE COUNTY GROWS OLDER.

The attendance in the rural schools of O'Brien county is much smaller than fifteen or eighteen years ago. It is no uncommon thing to find from six to ten pupils in a rural school. At this writing four adjacent schools in the center of the county have fifteen, thirteen, nine and five, respectively. Fifteen years ago many of these same schools had from twenty-five to thirty or more. It is no fault of the educational administration of the county, or lack of interest in education on the part of the people. It is rather the result of conditions. The children of the older settlers are now grown up, with families of their own. Eighteen years ago the heads of these now second generation families were still many of them in the rural schools. Hundreds of this second generation have during all the years gone to Minnesota, the Dakotas, Canada and everywhere west, seeking the cheaper lands, and leaving the older people in the county with no representatives in the schools. These same conditions are true over many parts of Iowa.

CHAPTER XIII.

INDIAN OCCUPANCY OF THIS TERRITORY.

By W. L. Clark.

This chapter will seek to briefly show what Indian tribes once held this territory as their own, and as to how the white race came into possession of it.

Of what is termed the pre-historic race that inhabited this section of the Northwest, there is but little known, the only history of this extinct people being the mounds and the contents of the same. These mounds are found in many parts of Iowa, a goodly number having in recent years been discovered and excavated in Cherokee county, just to the south of O'Brien county. Just who these "Mound Builders" were is an unsettled question and probably will so remain, but it is certain that they dwelt here centuries ago and were in all probability a distinct race from the North American Indian, as now understood. Those best versed in such matters claim that they were from the far-off Orient, coming here either as shipwrecked sailors, or possibly by true immigration from Asia, crossing at Bering Strait. This people were doubtless well up in arts and science for the day in which they existed. Copper was mined and worked in a fashion now unknown to the most skilled of present artisans. They made implements of war and had elaborate houses, practiced domestic economy and were probably the race just preceding the Indians, the first comers from Europe found here. (See also the article on like mounds in O'Brien county.)

For more than a century after Marquette and Joliet trod the soil of Iowa and admired its fertile plains, not a single settlement was made or even attempted; not even a trading post was established. During this time the Illinois Indians, once so powerful, gave up the entire possession of this "beautiful land," as the name "Iowa" really implies, to the Sacs and Foxes. In 1903, when Louisiana was purchased by the United States, these two tribes, with the Iowas, possessed the entire domain now within the state of Iowa. The Sacs and Foxes occupied almost all of the state of Illinois. The four most important towns of the Sacs were along the Mississippi, two on the east side, one near the mouth of the Upper Iowa and one at the head of

the Des Moines rapids, near the present town of Montrose. Those of the Foxes were, one on the west side of the Mississippi, just above Davenport, one about twelve miles from the river, back of the Dubuque lead mines, and one on Turkey river. The principal village of the Iowas was on the Des Moines river, in Van Buren county, where Iowaville now stands. Here the last great battle between the Sacs and Foxes and the Iowas was fought, in which Black Hawk, then a young man, commanded the attacking forces.

The Sioux had the northern portion of this state and southern Minnesota. They were a fierce and warlike nation, who often disputed possession with their rivals in savage and bloody warfare; but finally a boundary line was established between them by the government of the United States. This was by the treaty at Prairie du Chien, in 1825. This, however, became the source of an increased number of quarrels between the tribes, as each trespassed, or was thought to trespass, upon the rights of the other side. In 1830, therefore, the government created a forty-mile strip of neutral ground between them, which policy proved to be more successful in the interests of peace.

Soon after the United States acquired Louisiana, the government adopted measures for the exploration of the new territory, having in view the conciliation of the numerous tribes of Indians by whom it was possessed and also the selection of proper sites for military posts and trading stations. This was accordingly accomplished. But before the country could be opened up for settlement by the whites it was necessary that the Indian titles should be extinguished and that people removed. When the government assumed control of the country by virtue of the Louisiana Purchase nearly all Iowa was in possession of the Sacs and Foxes, at whose head stood the rising, daring, intellectual Black Hawk. On November 3, 1804, a treaty was concluded with these tribes by which they ceded to the United States the Illinois side of the Mississippi in consideration of two thousand three hundred and thirty-four dollars worth of goods then delivered and an annuity of one thousand dollars to be paid in goods at cost; but old Black Hawk always maintained that the chiefs who entered into that compact acted without authority and that therefore the treaty was not binding. The first fort on Iowa soil was built at Fort Madison. A short time before a military post was fixed at Warsaw, Illinois, and named Fort Edwards. These enterprises caused mistrust among the Indian tribes. Indeed Fort Madison was located in violation of the treaty of 1804. The Indians sent delegations to the whites at these forts to learn what they were doing and what they intended. On being "informed" that those structures were merely trading posts they

were incredulous and became more and more suspicious. Black Hawk, therefore, led a party to the vicinity of Fort Madison and attempted its destruction, but a premature attack by him caused his failure.

In 1812, when war was declared between this country and England, Black Hawk and his band allied themselves with the British, partly because they were dazzled by their promises, but mostly, perhaps, because they had been deceived by the Americans. Black Hawk said plainly that the latter fact was the cause. A portion of the Sacs and Foxes, however, headed by Keokuk ("Watchful Fox"), could not be persuaded into hostilities against the United States, they being disposed to stand by the treaty of 1804. The Indians were therefore divided into the "war" and "peace" parties. On Black Hawk's return from the British army he says he was introduced to Keokuk as the war chief of the braves then in that village. On inquiry as to how he became chief, there were given him the particulars of his having killed a Sioux in battle, which fact placed him among the warriors, and of his having headed an expedition in defense of their village at Peoria. In person, Keokuk was tall and of stately bearing and in speech he was a genuine, though uneducated, orator. He never mastered the English language, hence his biographers have never been able to do his character justice. He was a friend of the United States government and ever tried to persuade the Indians that it was useless to try to attack a nation so powerful as that of the United States.

The treaty of 1804 was renewed in 1816, which Black Hawk himself signed; but he afterwards held that he was deceived and that the treaty was not even yet binding. But there was no further serious trouble with the Indians until the noted Black Hawk war of 1832, all of which took place in Wisconsin and Illinois, with the expected result, the defeat and capture of old Black Hawk and the final repulsion of all the hostile Indians west of the Mississippi river. Black Hawk died in 1838 at his home in this state, and was buried there, but his remains were afterward placed in a museum of the Historical Society, where they were accidentally destroyed by fire.

More or less affecting the territory now included within the state of Iowa, fifteen treaties have been made and an outline is here given: In 1804, when the whites agreed not to settle west of the Mississippi on Indian lands; in 1815, with the Sioux, ratifying peace with Great Britain and the United States; with the Sacs a treaty of similar nature and also ratifying that of 1804, the Indians agreeing not to join their brethren who under Black Hawk had aided the British; with the Foxes, ratifying the treaty of 1804, the Indians agreeing to deliver up all prisoners; and with the Iowas a

treaty of friendship; in 1816, with the Sacs of Rock River, ratifying the treaty of 1804; in 1824, with the Sacs and Foxes, the latter relinquishing all their lands in Missouri and that portion of the southeast corner of Iowa known as the "Half-breed Tract" was set off to the half-breeds; in 1825, placing a boundary line between the Sacs and Foxes on the south and the Sioux on the north; in 1830, when the line was widened to forty miles; also in the same year with the several tribes, who ceded a large portion of their possessions in the western part of the state; in 1832, with the Winnebagoes, exchanging lands with them and providing a school, etc., for them; also in the same year, the "Black Hawk Purchase" was made, of about six million acres, also along the west side of the Mississippi from the southern line of Iowa to the mouth of the Iowa river; in 1836, with the Sacs and Foxes, ceding Keokuk's Reserve to the United States; in 1837, with the same, when another slice of territory comprising 1,250,000 acres adjoining west of the foregoing tract, was obtained; also in the same year, when these Indians gave up all their lands allowed them under former treaties; and finally, in 1842, when they relinquished their title to all their lands west of the Mississippi river.

Thus it has been shown how the white men came into possession of that portion of Iowa in which O'Brien county is situated. The Indians were all gone before the first settlement was effected here, hence the pioneer here did not have other trouble than a little scare and some cruel depredations committed by the blood-thirsty Sioux when on the warpath from Smithland and Cherokee to the scene of the awful massacre at Spirit Lake in April, 1857, and all of which took place in Waterman township. This is mentioned elsewhere in this work.

On reading of the horror of the Spirit Lake, or rather the West Okoboji, massacre in 1857, the year following the coming of Hannibal Waterman, or of the still worse deeds that followed at New Ulm in Minnesota, and when we recall that those same Indians were at Mr. Waterman's but a few days before, we may well wonder whether, had our county been but a few years farther along in settlement, would not O'Brien county have perhaps been the scene of like tragedies. It must be remembered that these same Indians had, the fall before, in 1856, passed down from Minnesota past Spirit Lake, through the neighboring Clay county, through Peterson, with stops at Mr. Waterman's, thence on to Smithland, as likewise several detachments of them even down as far as Sac and other counties. It seems now generally conceded that on the road down they were friendly, but that the citizens of Smithland acted unwisely in killing the game of the Indians.

which they had so laboriously corralled and expected to kill for their winter's supply, and then when this was done, and the Smithland people became frightened and took away their guns, the Indians passed through that terrible winter of 1856, with their savage idea of holding all white people individually responsible, it is scarce to be wondered at that the innocent victims at Spirit Lake suffered.

One incident occurred in Peterson which perhaps contributed, though probably no one was to blame. It seems that on the road down from Minnesota, one of the squaws got very sick at Peterson. Her company left her at the home of old Father Bicknell. She was there a month and got well. The winter was dreadfully severe. Food supplies had to be hauled from Fort Dodge or Sac City. The question was serious. Even an addition of one person in a family was serious. This squaw was told she must move on and join her people. She started to do so across the country. This, however, was no more than was often done by the Indian women. The snow that winter was unusually deep. Her bones or remains were found by the Indians in the spring on their road back to Minnesota. This enraged them. One Indian was killed in Clay county. This did not tend to preserve their peace. Other items happened, as Mr. Waterman states in his narrative. The Indians were not wholly in the wrong. Luckily for the peace of O'Brien county, Mr. Waterman was the only citizen and, though roughly used by them, escaped, lucky even that he could "buy his own gun back." Thus it is that the specific Indian incidents directly relating to this county are meager, from the one fact that there was but one citizen here. (See also the narrative of Mr. Waterman, and also the article on Prehistoric Fortifications and Indian Burial Mounds in the county.) The Spirit Lake massacre excited the people to that extent that Mr. Waterman was urged to move his family to Peterson as a better protection not only to his family, but also as an aid to the Peterson people.



FIRST O'BRIEN COUNTY HOME OF MR. AND MRS. W. H. WOODS, BUILT IN 1870. PICTURE MADE ON OCCASION OF PIONEER REUNION, 1903.

CHAPTER XIV.

REMINISCENCES OF EARLY PIONEER DAYS IN O'BRIEN COUNTY.

By Mrs. Roma Wheeler Woods.

Having been requested to write a few pages of reminiscences of early days in O'Brien county, I consented to make the effort. Authorities define the word reminiscence: "The recalling to mind of ideas or impressions formerly received or forgotten; a statement of what one recollects or remembers." Another, "A narrative of past incidents, events and characteristics within one's personal knowledge."

In the settlement of a new country, as in everything else, there is the "beginning of things." It is of these I am to write, running over the years from 1869 to 1881, inclusive. It will be simply a skinning over the years, stopping only to record the events that had a share in shaping the life of the people who had come here to make their homes, with an occasional incident in passing. I regret that in this story so much of the personal element must enter in, and regret also that I cannot give glimpses at least of the self sacrificing, hospitable and noble-hearted people, women and men, who laid the foundations of our beloved county, under some such unfortunate conditions.

In April, 1869, a party of four men, with a camping outfit, left Davenport for northwestern Iowa, to look up lands owned by parties in Davenport and Rock Island, Illinois, and also to select land for future purchase. The man in charge had been in the real estate business for years, had traveled over much of the state, but never, he thought, had seen anything so fine as O'Brien county, and soon decided to secure a claim for himself. The other three decided to do the same thing. Section 8, township 94, range 39, Waterman, was selected, each man taking a quarter section. They at once built a "sod shanty," in the center of the section, and broke up a few acres on each quarter section. As one of the parties was prominently identified with the happenings I have to relate I have been thus explicit. The men were W. Huston Woods, real estate agent and surveyor; L. A. Worth, a cousin, who came for a hunt and became a citizen; Ed. A. Nissen, who was the excellent cook of the outfit, and who later was sheriff of the county, and George Bell, teamster.

When these men decided to take claims they went to the village of O'Brien, the county seat. They were very curtly told that "there was not a foot of vacant land in the county," and this in face of the fact that there was not a human being in the county, outside of the little town. However, the plats of the county, just secured from the land office in Sioux City, told a somewhat different story, but upon close examination they were surprised to find that nearly three-fourths of the county had been disposed of in railroad land grants and to colleges, etc., while five townships had been entered solidly in the sixties. It was found that in Waterman township, in which the little town was located, there remained, all told, only about five sections, out of thirty-six, open to settlement. All efforts to see the county books were fruitless and it was several months before they came to view. These men were considered and treated as intruders. The persistent demands for the county books, which Mr. Woods wished to see in the interests of the men who sent him here, made an enemy of the clerk who was placed in the office to do the work. R. B. Crego was the treasurer, but he was not the man behind this clerk and who perhaps compelled him to do as he did. The surveyor had no time to improve his claim. In the latter part of July, in response to letters, the writer had packed a box of things needed, among them a grindstone. I filled up the box with a few things which would "come handy," and also packed in a trunk, a catalog, a guitar and pillow, and some necessities. On a certain day we met Mr. Woods at a station on the Rock Island Railroad due south from O'Brien county. "We are on the way to our new home." "Impossible," was the reply, "there is nothing for you there; wait until next spring." When, a few days later, the spring wagon, with "Bell" and "Ed" to draw it, started north, there was a large box, and trunk, and a woman and boy beside the driver. Sleeping on the ground at night, with game cooked on sticks by the fire, we had a glorious trip. In the absence of Mr. Woods, the boys had put up a shed long enough to accommodate twenty-five horses. They had cut down on a side hill on the west, and it was open to the east and also on the south and north, and closed by a long haystack. The uprights were cut from the timber on the Little Sioux river. The north end was cut off from the main part by rubber blankets, sacks of grain, and boxes were the seats. The east side of this annex being open, a small cook stove stood at the very edge, with one joint of pipe and an elbow which was turned as needed to keep the smoke out. In this primitive shelter, probably hundreds of men, women and children slept during the first few years of settlement and numberless horses were sheltered in a like manner.

The first day the writer spent on this claim on section 8 (adjoining the present Sutherland), was the day of the total eclipse of the sun, August 7, 1869, and nowhere was it more perfect than here. My husband and I were alone on that vast prairie, and we watched the magnificent pageant with awe and reverence. As the darkness closed about us and the air grew chill, there came a feeling of dependence upon the Creator never felt before, and as the blessed sunlight returned our hearts were filled with joy and thanksgiving. This was my baptism into a new life in more senses than one.

As the darkness passed we were touched on the shoulder and, turning, found our horses had come from across the creek, and so quietly we had not heard them. They were looking to us for protection, as we had looked to a higher power.

This month of August was most remarkable in the astronomical world. We sat in the evenings, in the little annex, in the dark, and watched the planet Jupiter sweep up from behind the hills unto the heavens, magnificent beyond words, singing and talking meanwhile; then going up the hill to our sleeping apartment (a covered wagon bed set up from the ground), we would stand awhile looking up to the starlit sky so beautiful. We could then understand how those old Aryans in the Indus mountains worshipped the over-arching sky which shut them in each night. It was in this way we entered the simple life of the pioneer.

A few settlers had come in the spring of that year. On the first Sunday after our arrival the first informal reception was held, probably the first in the county. The "boys" by this time had met all the neighbors, and somehow it had got noised about that a new woman had arrived. They began coming in the morning, and it was late in the afternoon when the last of them drove up, the Dan Inman family. They came on horseback, and with these, teams and ox teams. Among these last were Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jordan, whose journey to this county behind those oxen was their bridal trip. I was greatly interested in them all; they were to be our neighbors and, we hoped, our friends. "Dutch Fred," or Fred Feldman, the one man who had no office, being, as he said, "De beeples," came with his faithful dog "Bony-Parte." In the intonation of his voice and expression of his face one could feel the scorn which this German exile felt for Napoleon Bonaparte. Just how Mr. Nissen managed to secure refreshments for all those people has always been a mystery, with the nearest store seventy-five miles away; but he did it and all was merry and gay. He served the coffee in tin cups, without cream, and probably short cakes on tin plates, but with the same cautious manner as at home serving a large company from a full larder.

This little village of O'Brien, the county seat, I can see yet, as I first saw it. There was a "square," around which on each side was a road or street; across each street there were one or two houses, built of cottonwood logs. A new house built for Major Inman by Mr. Husted was the most pretentious. This was used as a hotel, the Major, with his young wife, living there also. On this same side was the "log court house." On the other side was the home of R. B. Crego, and on another that of Archibald Murray. Not far away was the house of Mr. Parsons. And there was a small blacksmith shop, as I recall, and this was the town. Just at the edge of the county line toward Peterson lived Mr. Parish. The memory of this family is one of the sweetest of that time. It was a log cabin, but spotlessly clean. Mrs. Parish, a beautiful, refined lady, was fading away with consumption. The sons and daughters were interesting; one of them later was Mrs. H. F. Smith, late of Primghar. H. F. Smith, Ed Parker, George Hillen, John Pumphrey, Mike O'Neal and John Patchin were the young men who made their homes with Crego's, Archibald Murray's and at the hotel kept by Hoel Gibbs. During the summer the Clark Green family and their relatives, Mr. Wears and Len Dick and Cal and Jacob Wagoner, came. Clark Green opened a store in one end of Archibald Murray's house. W. H. Baker lived not far away. This same fall came also William S. Fuller, Archibald McDonald, and Jim Wilson lived in a shanty in the timber. "Grandpap" Wears, Len Dick and Ben Epperson in another and Cal and Jake Wagoner, John Patchin and Mike O'Neal in another. This combination of "holes in the bank" was called Larrapyville by Peter McCrea. They cut logs and hauled to the Peterson saw mill and sold to Crego and others.

September of this year was rainy, and winter set in early. On the 6th day of October the ground was frozen hard and remained so until spring. Returning to Davenport in late September, we felt when we reached the old home surroundings we could never leave them again. But in a few weeks the lure of the prairie was so strong that, in spite of all protests, I returned with my husband in December. The railroad was then within six miles of Cherokee. After supper we started for home. Soon the low-lying clouds in the north grew gray and the snow began to fall so thickly as to cover the track made in a moment. The horses were given the rein to select the road, but they could not face the storm. Turning about, they trotted along and suddenly stopped. We called out and a woman opened the door and said "come right in." This was the only place between Cherokee and O'Brien and we must have perished but for them. It was the home of Mr. Steinhoff, seventy-five years old, who with his son and daughter and mother,

ninety-five years old, made up the family. Their home was just prairie hay, fixed up with sticks in some way, and they must have perished that long winter had it not been for George Benson, who took them over to his cabin across the way. Mr. Benson now lives in Sutherland.

The "boys" had put up a small cabin on the hillside, not quite ten feet square and near the shed. It was dug into the side hill on the west and north, and had one window on the east and a door in the south. There were two sleeping bunks on the side wall, a small table, box seats, a little coal stove and a chest between the bunks and the stove, which made a seat for two. During that winter letters were written to the *Davenport Gazette*, telling of the new northwest country. Soon letters began to pour in from Durant, Wilton Junction, West Liberty and many other places. In the *Des Moines Register* one day there was a notice that a bill had been presented to the Legislature to bond the indebtedness of the counties in northwest Iowa. Very soon Mr. Woods received instructions to have a reputable attorney go to O'Brien from some place and go through the county books. Of course it was not known that he had any connection with that meddler and rascal Woods? The record of that work was copied in that little cabin and the record itself sent to the parties who ordered it and paid for it.

In early March, 1870, a young man in Sioux City named Fred Beach, coming out to take a claim, left O'Brien in the morning to walk out to our place, seven miles. The ground was covered with snow. Knowing nothing of the country, he did not understand directions, and went up to Dan Inman's, who was then living on his claim up on Waterman creek. Again he failed to understand instructions and took the south creek instead, which would have brought him to us. The snow fell so thick and fast in the afternoon, with no roads, the poor boy, unused to all the hardship, tramped all day, had passed within half a mile of us and on to perhaps seven miles away, when strength gave out and he fell upon his face and so died. A little dog some friend had sent to Mr. Woods, he carried inside his overcoat, and where it died later, as his tracks were all around poor Fred in every direction. The next morning it was eighteen degrees below zero. The next day William E. Baldwin, of Sioux City, came out to go over his claim and asked about Fred. They at once began a search for him. The next morning nearly all the men in O'Brien came out and joined in the search. The air was full of snow and it was so hazy that men looked like posts. The storm increased so rapidly that they gathered into that little cabin. We had some bacon and coffee and I had baked up the last of the flour that morning. But

I did not dare to let them go out without their dinner. Mr. Woods was the last to come and he was all but exhausted. I would not hear to their going until Mr. Woods came in, but as soon as he came they prepared to go, although we tried to have them stay. They all started to the sleighs, but two of them failed to reach them and came back and had to remain three days until the storm abated. The supplies sent for had been forgotten and had been left in O'Brien, but we had some wheat for the spring planting and we cooked that. The thought of Fred was uppermost in mind, and for a month Mr. Woods kept up the search, going each day in the direction we heard the wolves the night before. It was a month before he was found, and then the snow had melted so that our neighbors, a mile away across the creek, had to go three or four miles to get over the stream. Nearly everybody in the country were at the funeral. The people who went to O'Brien in that storm would have perished had it not been for Sylvester Parish, a man with such a keen observation and a long experience on the prairie that in that traveler's waste of snow he kept the proper bearings and, with Mr. Waterman to drive the team, they reached their homes in safety. The men who came out to us at that perilous time were, as I remember, Hoel Gibbs, Russell G. Allen, George Parker, Lionel Worth, John Patchin, Henry (Hank) Smith, Horace Gilbert, George Younde, George Hillen (the two who remained), Uncle George Johnson, who had just come to the country, and the names of others I cannot recall. I think there were several more. An inquest was held in Liberty township, where Fred was found. A bill of expenses gives the names of the jurors as T. J. Field, Aaron Brown and A. Caldwell, witnesses, John Richardson, Sidney Viers and C. Fields, and the name of the coroner not given, date April 9, 1870. For years the lights were set in the windows on dark nights.

Letters were coming in rapidly relating to lands. The lands in the county were not in the market for pre-emption, homesteads or purchase until the 6th day of July, 1870. Again and again Mr. Woods told the settler that it was of no use to go until that day to Sioux City to secure the claims upon which they had filed. They went on and secured their papers, and the indignation of some of them was so great against him (of course he wanted all that land himself) that they organized to do him bodily harm. Mr. Woods, who took out papers for several parties, spoke often of what a calamity would soon come upon the county for fifty or sixty homesteaders to lose their claims or be compelled to buy off those who on the morning of the 6th of July laid money against them. In September or October of 1871 Mr. Woods learned, while he was filing papers in Sioux City, that patents

were about to be issued for lands near us. Asking for a list of the lands, he received it, and while making a copy of same heard suggestions made that reacted seriously upon the one who made them. Without waiting to conclude his own business, Mr. Woods returned to the county, went to the home of J. C. Doling, who came home with Mr. Woods and spent the night with us at our home. In the early morning they left for Sioux City and went at once to Joy & Wright, attorneys, who told them to organize and make the fight together, that it would take an act of Congress and a thousand dollars. Mr. Doling at once returned home and sent word to all those who were in the list Mr. Woods had given him to meet at Payne's store and they organized the "O'Brien County Land League," with J. C. Doling, president, and Ed. C. Brown, secretary. There were sixty-one homesteads involved, and all joined but one, and he was the only one to lose his homestead.

But to go back to 1870. A man appeared one day with a shovel, with a tin pail hung on it, over his shoulder. He wished to locate a claim in Baker township. Mr. Woods had other parties to locate first, so he would have to remain a few days. He wanted to do some work to help pay for the surveying. My father suggested next morning that he might fix some horse troughs. He said that "it was his Sunday" and he should not work. The next morning he was ready to work, when my father told him it "was his Sunday," so between them the work was never done. It left an item to laugh over.

In the early fall I returned to Davenport. Mr. Woods had paid Mr. Crego for brick to build a house and they were hauled up to the place, but were found to be worthless. So another log cabin was built, this time on the homestead. While in Davenport I had disposed of everything that I thought we could do without and shipped the rest to O'Brien county, including the piano and library, each of which I believe were the first to reach the county. When I reached here later the goods were in the cabin, but there was hardly room to sit down, so some of the things helped to furnish other cabins.

In the fall of this year 1870 my father, Daniel H. Wheeler, and I came down from William E. Baldwin's, three miles away in Highland township (they built the first cabin in that township). My father wore, as he had always done, a "stove pipe hat." We noticed as we neared the cabin that a new camping outfit was nearby. It seems they had arranged for Mr. Woods to go with them to survey out a claim the next day. L. B. Healy came from Cherokee; they had on white shirts and their best clothes. Just before dark a top buggy came from Cherokee way with two well-dressed gentlemen. Our son, H. C. Woods, long known among the early settlers as "Bub" Woods,

came in from the O'Brien way. It was a beautiful, clear, moonlight night, and about nine o'clock. R. B. Crego came up with a gay team with white fly covers. He had with him a man who came at once into the house, and H. C. went out, and he and Mr. Crego put the horses away. The curtains were all put down. That night affidavits were made by at least two men who knew all about how the county debt had been created, because they were part of those in the work. They would only come under the strictest secrecy, and were brought by R. B. Crego.

The next morning there was no sign of the campers we had seen. A few days later we heard of them as being at Ben Hutchinson's store in Carroll township. They were greatly excited and felt that they had made a narrow escape from some great peril. They declared that there was a nest of robbers or counterfeiters down at that place where they stopped. When Mr. Hutchinson heard where it was, he said, "Oh, those were homesteaders gathering in at night." "Homesteaders, h——, homesteaders don't wear stove pipe hats, and white shirts and ride in top buggies; why teams were driving in from every way and late at night, too." "We bein' warned against that Woods in O'Brien and we lit out of there."

The constant complaints from new settlers and from those who had invested money here and many cases where the deeds for the land which they had did not describe land in O'Brien county or any where else, and so many homesteaders who had to pay eighty to one hundred dollars to parties who had "laid money against the land," made some organization among the new settlers necessary. The first of these was the "Board of Emigration," of which the faithful Stephen Harris was secretary. After the affidavits were secured, which were seen only by a few, the conditions were laid before the attorney-general of the state; indeed he had been consulted previously. He said the remedy was simple and plain, and under his direction a petition was prepared which every voter in the county, except the officers and the ex-officers, signed, and it was sent to the attorney-general by private hand. Immediate action was promised. The people waited in almost breathless suspense. Two weeks later a county official told one of the petitioners "that the petition would never be heard of again, somebody had fixed him with three hundred and twenty acres of land." It seemed incredible, but that was all that was ever heard of it. Two years later a board of supervisors was elected, called the reform board. Here was another opportunity for the people. A resident taxpayer wrote to the Iowa Railroad Land Company that the people were determined to make another effort to wipe out the illegal debt. They replied that if the board of supervisors would stand by them

they would pay all costs of litigation. Co-operation was promised by the committee on defense. The attorney for the Iowa Railroad Land Company had been here some time at work when a stub book of the county which he was examining and all of the papers were stolen, and he left in disgust and no efforts were made for their recovery by the supervisors.

In the postoffice in O'Brien in the early part of December, 1871, Mr. Woods opened a marked copy of a paper published in Denison, Iowa, and was surprised into exclamations and protestations, as he read that the school sections of O'Brien county would be put up for public sale on a certain day very near at hand. Why was this sold in the dead of winter? And "why, if for sale, were these lands not advertised in the Sioux City papers, where the land office was, and where people looked for such things?" There were a few moments of vehement talk pro and con, but no time was to be lost. A fleet team carried him to Cherokee to catch the afternoon train to Sioux City. The next morning he took breakfast with his old friend, Gen. N. B. Baker, in Des Moines, who then went with him to the home of Governor Merrill, who was just going to his breakfast as they arrived, but stopped to greet General Baker, who introduced Mr. Woods and stated the object of his coming. Mr. Woods handed him the Denison paper marked. He read it, asked a few questions, then dictated a telegram to the attorney-general to proceed at once and stop that sale of lands. Not many years ago I saw an article in a magazine written by Governor Merrill relating to this incident. There was another phase of pioneer life. Indeed that life was full of many satisfactions.

One day a terrible prairie fire swept up from the south. Fire guards were nothing and the wind lifted the burning tumble weeds high in the air and scattered them everywhere. Within an hour there remained only the last cabin that was built and wagon, around which were tied the horses. We were asleep when some one called "Hello." When the door was opened W. E. Baldwin said, "I heard you were burned out today and I brought you half of my oats." On Saturday of that week several teams passed on the way to the timber, not an unusual sight. Mr. Baldwin said, "Don't say anything to Huse, but we are going to stop here." A hot supper awaited them. But Huse was utterly overcome when they unloaded those logs and timbers. The next day was Sunday and all but one came to put up a shelter for the horses (to put their horses in when they came visiting, they put it). These men were Ralph Dodge, W. E. Baldwin, Rice and John Weal, M. Wheeler, from Liberty township, Mr. Towbermann and Emanuel Kindig, who brought

two teams that day because he did not like to work Sunday. Those splendid men, brother pioneers, God bless them.

In 1873 the Grange movement reached O'Brien county and nothing came more opportune. July 4, 1874, was celebrated in Waterma's grove. All the granges in O'Brien and Buena Vista counties were there, each with a beautiful banner. Miss Garretson made the address, Mrs. Baldwin read the Declaration, fine music was rendered, a good dinner had and everybody was happy. In Old O'Brien they had frequent dances, with Jake Wagoner to play the fiddle and keep time with his foot. Mrs. W. C. Green was a beautiful young matron, Aurelia Green, and Teresa and Gertrude, sisters, with Mrs. L. G. Healy and daughters, and Mrs. D. B. (Barney) Harmon and others made up quite a social set with the young men thereabouts.

GEN. N. B. BAKER LIBRARY.

The twice-a-week mail had arrived from Old O'Brien, letters had been read, and two of us were happy with new magazines. Mr. Woods, busy in the newspapers, suddenly exclaimed, "We *must* have a public library." "Who would support the library? Where would it be kept, etc., etc." "Why the people will come fifteen or twenty miles to get reading matter." "It can be done and it must be done." The boy smiled at us and we all resumed our reading. Ten days later Mr. Woods returned from Des Moines, where business matters had called him. He brought with him a constitution and by-laws for a library association and a huge box of books. He had gone to an old friend, Adjutant-General Baker, Governor Kirkwood's adjutant during the war, and up to the time of his death the best known man and best beloved man in Iowa. Together they worked out the plan to form an association, limited to fifty members, the stock of same to be five hundred dollars and nonassessable and in shares of ten dollars each, the stock to remain in the hands of the subscriber, he to pay ten per cent. interest on it each year, one dollar a year, this to be used in the purchase of books only. The association was formed and a few of the members appeared before a justice of the peace in Highland township and signed articles of incorporation of the N. B. Baker Library Association. The parties were W. H. Woods, Stephen Harris, J. C. Doling, Libbie Johnson, Lydia Wheeler, W. E. Baldwin, Jennie Baldwin, Lydia A. Harris, Hannah Johnson and Roma W. Woods. The date of this was October 5, 1874, and before D. H. Wheeler, justice of the peace.

Gen. W. Duane Wilson, of Des Moines, who had been one of the found-

ers of the *Chicago Tribune* and was at this time editing some paper in Des Moines, writing in reply to a letter, said: "The idea of your library is fine; to prove my faith in it will send you a box of books from my own library." That box came and held eighty bound books and six hundred magazines, complete files of *Harper's*, *Atlantic*, *Scribner's*, etc. We tied these together with shoe thread and made covers of paper sacks. How we all enjoyed those magazines. That first year but thirty-nine members paid the assessments, but we subscribed for eight magazines, *Littell's Living Age* at the head of the list, *Harper's*, *Scribner's*, etc., with *St. Nicholas* for the children. The rest of the money was put into books. We had library parties, which brought in a little money to pay expenses, and also meetings, with discussions and papers. The second year but twenty-six members were able to pay the interest or assessment. We left out *Littell's Living Age*, as too expensive. The third year but three were able to pay this assessment, though small, J. C. Doling and wife and Stephen Harris. The grasshoppers were here, but the books went out among the people, and were never more needed. Letters to friends brought boxes of books from Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Brewster, George W. Ellis and others. The last thing General Wilson did before his fatal illness was to pack a large box of books and they were sent to us by his dear wife and daughter. We had to borrow that two dollars from the book fund to pay the freight. General Wilson was a man of fine literary ability and a "gentleman of the old school." He was an uncle of President Wilson. Mrs. Annie Price Dillon, another friend, sent books and fine pictures of her father, Hiram Price, the man who financed the sending of the First Iowa Regiment and of her husband, Judge John F. Dillon, of New York. Mrs. Dillon kept up her interest in the library until her tragic death in the sinking of the ship "La Borgaine" in July, 1896.

Soon after Sutherland was started (up to that time the library had been in the Woods cabin) it was moved to Sutherland and during the years had to be moved many times. The corresponding secretary went each Saturday to give out books. Grateful thanks are due to Bert Hamilton, L. J. Price, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Sage and others for giving the room for the purpose and other kindnesses. With all its ups and downs, it has been of constant usefulness. A few years ago circumstances compelled the destruction of a good part of the circulating library; but that loss has been made good, and the library is doing fine work as a reference library. A permanent home, which sooner or later it will have, will place it in the forefront of the literary and educational activities of the town.

This is the story of the pioneer library of northwestern Iowa. At its last election the following officers were elected: Charles Youde, president; Sydney Hitchings, vice-president; T. B. Bark, treasurer; Augusta Bark, recording secretary, and Roma Wheeler Woods, corresponding secretary and librarian.

The new settlers who came to O'Brien county in the early seventies had two good, strong, influential friends in Congress who stood faithfully by them. Had it not been so it would have been even worse than it was. They were Senators George G. Wright, of Des Moines, and James Harlan, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Petitions were sent to them. Some of the results were a new commissioner of the general land office in Washington, and a new register in the land office at Sioux City, who did what he could in the interests of the settlers. But the "boys" just across the hall, and who had made a claim on this and that piece of land, were too strongly entrenched and men had either to pay the toll or give up the land, as many of them did. But with all the annoying matters continually coming up to a man who was in the business of locating people on their claims who came to Mr. Woods, the pioneer life was nevertheless full of satisfactions.

The hue of the vast prairie, with its ever changing and mysterious beauty, gave a broadness to life. One saw men and women as they were, and learned to have a reverence for human nature in the rough or rather unfinished ways of what we call civilization. There was always something new to be learned and we reveled in the fine spirit of the people, their courage and endurance. There was always something to laugh about. A little incident comes to mind. One late afternoon in September, 1872, there appeared at the cabin door Mrs. Paul Casley and her mother from the extreme west side of the county. "Would Mr. Woods please go with them to O'Brien to see Esquire Sage?" "Certainly tomorrow." As we took the horse from the little wagon on the morrow, a visit to Mrs. Waterman was suggested for me. All went well. Mrs. Waterman, as usual, had a cup of coffee and a lunch ready. When the party returned from O'Brien and we were ready to leave, Mr. Woods suggested that he drive the horse down the hill, to which Mrs. Casley would not consent. They started, and we were about to start when a scream took us all out to the road. Mrs. Casley was in a great state of excitement, but where was the horse and wagon? Why, bless you, in the middle of the river. It seems that the old horse that had come so quietly behind us down the hills, fording the river and up the hill, concluded that if he had to go alone down that long, crooked and extremely rough hill—why,

he wouldn't go. He made his stand, and Mrs. Casley, giving the lines to her mother, jumped out to head him off, when he bolted and went down that awful hill and to the middle of the river before he stopped. The old lady fell to the bottom of the little wagon, and the seat and quilts were strung all along the way. Mr. Woods waded out to the wagon, and the old lady said, "Now did you ever see the beat of that fool horse. I never was so bounced in my life and I just expected he'd just go right home that way and what would Casley say," laughing just at the thought of it. Finally we got started home, the old horse coming quietly behind us. When we reached the cabin, there was a good fire and the teakettle was singing and Dr. and Mrs. Butler, (his first wife), of Cherokee, were there. Doors were never locked, and people were expected to make themselves comfortable even to the extent of getting meals. Well, the old cabin rang with laughter that night. The next day Mrs. Casley left for home, declining company, as there was "neither hill nor river to cross the way." Another object of unfailing amusement was a jack, a quiet, trim little animal who seemed to have a horror of wetting his feet. The mail came to O'Brien twice a week and sometimes Jack was pressed into service. There was a clear, running stream, narrow but not deep, but Jack would stop and plant his forefeet and look at himself in the water, one ear forward, then both. He could not be induced to cross. No whip was allowed. The boy soon learned that a pan of corn on the other side would make him forget and hustle quickly across.

In 1873 a line in the *Des Moines Register* said that a bill had been presented in Congress postponing the time for completion of the St. Paul & McGregor Railroad. In those days there were no telephones or autos, to annihilate time and space, but there were fleet young horses out in the shed, and a fleet young bay was soon started. A mass meeting was called, a remonstrance drawn up and copies were sent all over the county. It was said that every voter in the county signed it. I recall the fact that the two longest lists of names brought in were by Joe Jordan and H. C. Woods (known as "Bub"). The bill was withdrawn.

The year 1873 will never be forgotten, by some of us at least, because of bank failures, factories closed, great armies of men out of work, and the great strike of railroad employees, etc. In O'Brien county, in addition, we had grasshoppers. Machinery had been purchased to put the broad acres under cultivation. Notes were coming due. Times looked dark indeed. Like a vessel looming up over the wild waste of water, bringing hope and succor to people stranded on an island, came the gauge, with its banner of

helpfulness and good cheer, and its promise of help for the farmers and settlers, promises which were nobly fulfilled. It seemed to take the minds of the people from their really serious condition and planted hope in their hearts. The meetings held in the school houses were helpful in many ways and delightful socially. There was a pleasant comradeship between the four granges in O'Brien county, and on July 4, 1874, a grange picnic was held in Mr. Waterman's grove of fine old trees. Clay county granges came with their banners, which, with our home banners and flags, made a strange display in that wildwood. Mrs. Jennie E. Baldwin read the Declaration of Independence. Miss Julia Garretson, of southern Iowa, gave a beautiful address. There was singing and dancing and games, and where there was dancing there was "Jake" Wagoner and his fiddle, keeping time with his foot. Mr. Wagoner is now a resident of Sutherland, has a fine family and many farms, etc.

In the fall of 1874 came the formation of the Gen. N. B. Baker Library, as stated, and "library parties" were all the rage. A favorable place to hold these parties was at the home of Major Chester W. Inman, there being a good dancing hall in the third story, large rooms in the second story and ample room. The young men from Primghar and the north part of the county used to come down, and attorney Charley Allen furnished the music. He was a fine violinist. The granges decided to have an evening at the home of the special agent, Adam Towberman, who had secured ten quarts of fresh oysters, and he invited "all of Primghar", as he said. There were about one hundred and twenty-five persons present and every available place that afforded a seat was occupied and yet there were many standing, when the host exclaimed, "Sit down, why don't you sit down, there's eighteen cheers in the house; just sit down". Eighteen chairs were more than any of the rest of us had to be sure.

In 1876 the promises for a fine crop were never excelled. All kinds of grain, corn, etc., were at their best. When the harvest of small grain had just begun, the grasshoppers swooped down upon us and destroyed everything. The corn stalks stood bare and the cattle turned into them were poisoned and died. Notes had been put into mortgages. Had the old Athenian custom of placing pillars at the corners of mortgaged lands been in vogue, the country would have looked like the cemetery it was of buried hopes and ambitions. The grasshoppers had deposited their eggs, and in the spring of 1877 they hatched out and remained with us until on many farms everything was destroyed. On our farm there was not a spear of grass left. The homesteads and pre-empted lands were becoming taxable, in-

terest on notes and mortgages was becoming due. Then also the illegal debt upon the county loomed up larger than ever, as it was constantly increasing. Many of the settlers had to accept help from the state. The old members of the "Board of Emigration" an organization among the homesteaders for mutual help, were still interested in the welfare of the people, of whom they were a part, and after many consultations decided to make another effort to defeat the illegal claims against the county. As a result they organized the Taxpayers' Association. In another part of this history J. L. E. Peck has given a full and comprehensive account of the organization, of its work and final outcome. I may be allowed a few words as to the personnel of the leaders of this movement. They were earnest, loyal men, who felt that justice and right demanded that an effort at least should be made to relieve the people, of whom they were a part, of the fraudulent work under which they were living.

Many eminent lawyers had given their opinion as to the illegality of the debt and pointed the way for relief. Everything promised well, when the United States circuit court decided that a suit of that kind must be brought by the board of supervisors. This board had been appealed to, but had refused, so the matter had to be dropped.

We learned in those trying days how the motives of men could be misconstrued, their honesty influenced, and their names tossed about like a football. We learned, too, how men's enthusiasm died with a failing cause, and promises made considered null. But we also learned how loyal and faithful to a cause and to each other some men could be, and this last overshadowed all the rest. The men who never faltered even to the payment of bills, which had been necessary to incur (lawyers do not work without pay): expenses had been kept at the minimum, but became heavy for a few men to shoulder. The men who met these claims like men were A. P. Powers, Ralph Dodge, Emanuel Kindig, Tom Steele, J. C. Doling, Stephen Harris, J. K. McAndrew, William E. Baldwin, W. H. Woods (Huse), H. A. Sage, and Alex Peddie for the Jackson Land Company, and H. C. Woods. There were many others who paid the full amount they pledged, from one to ten dollars. I would like to give all their names if it were possible. They did an honorable part.

In the winter of 1880-1881 the snow was so deep that horses could not travel. There appeared at our door one afternoon, late, a man with a green veil over his face, a blanket rolled up on his back, and a tall staff in his hand. He asked if we could take him and his fourteen men for the night? "Had they any blankets?" "Yes." "Well, we will do the best we

can for you." As the door closed after the man, my helper said, "What in the world are you going to give them to eat? There is hardly bread for one supper and nearly everything is out". Hot biscuits, hot doughnuts, fried bacon, baked beans and coffee for both meals seemed good to them. In the morning the leader asked what his bill was? Mr. Woods said, "The madam will tell you," as he turned to me. I said, as usual, "Oh, you are welcome to what you have had. I hope you will bring a railroad to us." He insisted upon paying, and the sensation of having money in my hands in exchange for meals can never be forgotten. I felt as if I was no longer a pioneer. I believe I have had the feeling that I was a "grafter." But there was something gone that belonged to the years behind. We had both felt that what we had we would share with whoever came. I think our neighbors all did the same thing. But the next time money was offered it was easier to take it. But I am left to feel that it was not often we broke over the good old way. The next year the Northwestern, or the Eagle Grove branch, ran through the farm and on the next section of land was built the town of Sutherland. (It may be judged who those fourteen men were.)

I have exceeded the limits of my space allotted and have said nothing about the women who did so much toward the upbuilding of the county, for, after all, the homes are the foundation stones of the fabric of civilization. There was in the heart of each home a woman who was doing her part as she knew, as wife, mother and home maker. I can see them now, in their little places of shelter, making the most of what they had, encouraging and sustaining husbands and sons as they tried to meet and overcome the difficult problems constantly met by those who were trying to make a home in a new country. How happy the women were when there was an occasional "gathering," and they came with their children, so neat and clean. There were no lines of social cleavage in those days, and there never ought to be.

There were few settlers in Waterman township, outside of O'Brien, the Watermans on the banks of the Little Sioux. Mrs. Waterman is still living (in 1914) and is always a welcome guest in every house in Sutherland and vicinity. The Watermans, when they came to O'Brien county in July, 1856, brought with them a little daughter, nine months old, Emily, who in later years married Al McClaren, of Sioux City. She was the first white child to come into the county to live. In May, 1857, Anna was born, the first white child born in the county. Soon after a son was born to Charles Stephenson, the first white boy born in the county. The other children born to these first settlers were, a son born in January, 1859; another son born in June, 1860, but lived only a week; Orrin, born in 1861, died in 1871; Julia Etta,

born in June, 1864, married H. W. Gleason and died in 1892, leaving a son; Alta G. Waterman, born in 1866, married J. A. Mahar, and they have several children; Grant Waterman, born in October, 1869, died in 1870; Floy E. Waterman, born in 1872, married in 1899 to F. W. Conrad, and they have two sons; Belle Waterman, born March 11, 1876, died in 1899; Blanch Waterman, twin sister of Belle, married H. W. Gleason in 1894, who has since died.

The above is only an outline of the life of a very noble type of woman. The mother of eleven children, living so many years in the most primitive way, was the kind of friend to the hundreds of people who made the Waterman cabin a stopping place for a short or longer time. Mrs. Waterman is in good health at the beginning of this year 1914.

Another remarkable pioneer woman was Mrs. Adam Towberman. Mr. Towberman had three sons by a former wife, and Mrs. Towberman had five children by a former husband, who died in the Civil War. Then there were four children by the new family, making twelve children in the family. She was always a quiet, self-possessed woman and a true mother to each of these twelve.

Another woman who did a great work in the early days in the county was Mrs. William E. Baldwin, or better known as Mrs. Jennie Baldwin. She was one of the first teachers after the new settlers came in. There are many men and women who owe much to Mrs. Baldwin for her interest in their education. She was a bright, witty woman, and she and her husband were our most frequent guests.

Another family who were among our best friends were Mr. and Mrs. Julius C. Doling (the former once county treasurer), with their family of eight children. Mrs. Doling was a devoted wife and mother. There were many others, but these were those who came most often at our place.

In Waterman township there are quite a number who still own and live on their original homestead claims, and some of them with many additional acres. Silas Steele and wife, splendid neighbors and friends, are among them. They and their large family are all settled and prosperous. Rice Weal still owns his original claim and much more, and lives in town. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sweeney, in their old age, and their large family are all settled about them, mostly in Waterman. Mrs. Sweeney is a veritable queen in all the delightful gatherings in the township, a noble woman of high ideals. The Martins, Hills and Triplets, three large families, are all settled in fine homes with autos. Waterman is a rich township, and I wish it were possible to speak of each and every one in it.

CHAPTER XV.

REMINISCENCES.

By Mrs. C. V. VanEpps.

It has been my privilege to live in Carroll township, or near it (in town of Sheldon), for over forty-one years, and when requested to write up the history and give experiences as one of the earliest settlers, I gave reluctant consent and felt I was not equal to the task. When I look back and think and see of the changed conditions that have taken place in that time, it seems more of a dream than a reality, and in looking back, trying to recall some of the events of the early settlement period, I am at a loss to think of things that would be of interest in this historical book, but was to tell how I came to the township and who were the early settlers and some of the events which transpired at that time, and as some of these events come up in my mind I will try to write something which I hope may prove interesting.

When the writer came to the county, September 12, 1872, there were no railroads in the county and her husband met her at Marcus (which then consisted of just a shanty for a depot), with what you call a "prairie schooner" to drive across the country twenty-two miles to Carroll township to their claim. In all that ride there was nothing to be seen until you got to the Amos Sutter and Harley Day ranch—just a dug-out—and when the men saw the "schooner" they ran out waving their hands and hurraing for the woman, as they were a sight in that part of the township then. As we drove on, a jack rabbit bobbed up on the prairie and stopped and looked, as much as to say, "Who are you, treading on my domain?" That was all the life seen on that twenty-two-mile drive. The first settler of Carroll township was Patrick Carroll, who came from Illinois and brought his wife and eight children with him in the spring of 1870, not knowing when he started just where he was going—only to find and make a home for himself and family. Northwest Iowa was about the limit and nearest place where government land could be found at that time. So Mr. Carroll headed for northwest Iowa and landed in Cherokee, when he began to enquire of the land—and he was referred to "Waterman," Mr. Carroll supposed it was a town and started to drive and kept watching over the prairie to see a city. After

driving a long while and seeing no signs of a town or anything else but vast prairie, he arrived at Mill creek, where he met two teams and stopped to chat and inquire for Waterman. Imagine his surprise when he was told there was no town of that name, but there was a man by the name of Hannibal Waterman holding down a claim and had a shack built on it a ways back. Mr. Carroll turned round his team and drove back and found the Waterman place and they camped there for the night and had to dig to get water for his teams and family to use. The next morning they drove northwest and came to a shack in Baker township. These shacks were the signs that the claim was taken up. This proved to be Wallace Rinker's and Austin Sutter was there and was starting out with several teams of oxen to find breaking to do for settlers, and when Mr. Carroll enquired for land he was told of section 34, where no one had located, and so he located the family on the south half of the southeast quarter of that section. The first thing was to dig to see if water could be found, as the cry then with the few settlers was so little water and hard to find. About the first thing was to dig in some slough or low piece of ground and if you found water then the settler was happy. Mr. Carroll found water and so took off his wagon covers and used that for a habitation until he got a dugout or shack built, into which he moved his family that fall.

When we think of those dugouts or shacks now, it is hard to realize how one lived. There was a hole dug down three feet or more in the ground and then a frame of whatever you could get made over that and sometimes only the sod (which was very tough) cut in squares and built up. There were no floors, or partitions, unless made of bed quilts. The writer has stood on six inches of snow in one of these dugouts and done washing for the sick who owned it. But I can not help but say there was more general happiness to be found in some of these shacks than was found in their more pretentious homes afterward, when so many began to feel, and showed it, that "I have a better home now than you have."

But, to come back to Mr. Carroll, the township was not named yet and, he being the first settler and proving to be an honorable man, they named it in his honor. This was in 1870. That fall Mr. Mennig and the Donovans came to the township. Mr. Mennig brought his family from Davenport, Iowa, in the spring, but had lived in Waterman township through the summer and had contested a claim on the southeast quarter of section 18, in Carroll township, and it was decided in his favor and he settled on this claim in the spring of 1871, and he or his boys still own it, Mr. Mennig hav-

ing retired to a modern home in Sheldon after a long life of hard work. He has deeded his land of several hundred acres to his three children and he and wife have moved to Sheldon, with a large competency to keep them in their old age. In the year 1870 William Butterfield and Charles Albright came out from Durant, Iowa, to spy out the land, of which its vast prairies and wonderful sunshine had begun to be noised about. Mr. Albright selected his land in Highland township, while Mr. Butterfield homesteaded on its southeast quarter of section 4, Carroll township. They then returned to Durant and told of the wonderful country, where milk and honey flowed and gold was to be found for the picking up. They were very much enthused over this wonderful land and tried and did imbue this same spirit in others, so much so that in the spring of 1871 eleven men in all came to view this wonderful country and most of them settled in Carroll township. The writer's husband, C. V. Van Epps, and M. G. McClellan being two of the party that drove across the state in June from Durant, Iowa, and homesteaded on the east half of section 10 in Carroll township, each settling on one hundred and sixty acres, as both were soldiers and entitled to that much. They hired Charles Butterfield and Johnie Miller to break twelve and six acres respectively on each claim and then they traveled back home, and in September, that year, had to come again to make some improvement, so as to hold their claims. Arriving here, they went over into Lyon county, along the Rock river, and got poles to make a frame for stables and covered them with prairie grass, Van Epps leaving a corn plow and two stools in his and McClellan leaving something on the same order to show the claims had been settled on. Then, in the spring of 1872, all these men brought their families, and in that year the land in the township, or mostly all, was taken up. In the northern part of the township the claims were inhabited with families and there was quite a colony of settlers who had mostly come from or near the same place (Durant, Iowa). The writer came September 12, 1872, her husband preceding her to get something to live in. He had hauled lumber from Cherokee and got a home fourteen by eighteen, twelve-foot posts, built, but as yet no windows or doors. Rag carpet hung over the openings at nights to protect you from the cold air, the house being only sheeted up. The writer helped weather board it and what a time we did have to make a stair way so as not to have to climb a ladder. We lived seventeen years in that home, with few improvements, as happy as any years of our lives. The settlers thought nothing of driving ten or twelve miles in a day to visit or to help each other when work was on hand.

The winter of 1872 and 1873 was the hardest of all for the settlers in

Carroll township, as they were not prepared for the cold winter, no houses being plastered and the prairies being one vast plain of land, not a tree or bush to mar one's vision as far as the eye could see. The bleak cold northwest winds penetrated every crack or crevice of our homes and many had not even the clothing they ought to have had to protect their bodies.. Fuel was hard to get, as the Omaha & St. Paul railroad, the first in the county, had only gotten as far as Worthington and was blockaded so much of the time that they could not get coal into the county; only a very few settlers anyway, had money with which to buy fuel. So prairie grass (some few had a little corn) was resorted to as fuel. The 9th of January, 1872, when the first blizzard raged over the township, nine of the settlers in the northern part of the township had gone to Waterman creek, near Cherokee, or to the Rock river near Rock Valley, to gather wood or chop down green poles to bring home for fuel. O what aching hearts there were at that time, for some of these settlers did not get home for a week, their families not knowing whether they were frozen to death or not, for there were no roads and when there was snow on the ground nothing to be seen to guide you.

So what dark days we did see, especially when the diphtheria broke out among the children and the settlers' teams with the epizootic. No doctor in the county and no one hardly to look to for help, as each family had all they could do to help themselves. The writer has gone fourteen miles, when they came after her, to help in sickness, the cold winds blowing a gale and the snow being two feet deep on the level, with drifts four and five feet piled up, and no signs of a road and the track being filled in as fast as you could get over it. Bedding was taken along to keep you warm and a scoop shovel to dig out the horses when they mired down in the snow.

The first school house in the township was built on the southwest corner of section 3, and the first teacher in it was Mrs. Dr. Cram, of Sheldon. Rev. H. D. Wiard had taught a school in the shack he lived in the winter before on the Will Ridell homestead on section 10, the scholars, some of them, coming from nine to fourteen miles and staying through the week with the settler. Rev. H. D. Wiard preached the first sermon in Carroll township at the home of Dan McKay, who was located on section 6, in August, 1872, and from the time of that first sermon the first church that was built in O'Brien county sprang up and is now the Congregational society of Sheldon. It sprang up from small beginnings, as large trees from acorns grow. There were six members in the church, four of these in Carroll

township. In September, 1912, that church celebrated its fortieth anniversary, which we will record in this history.

[The following reminiscent sketch of the history of the First Congregational church, from its beginning, in Sheldon, Iowa, August 18, 1872, to September 29, 1912, was prepared by Mrs. C. V. Van Epps, and read by Mrs. F. E. Frisbee on the fortieth anniversary of the church's organization.—Ed.]

We of the Congregational church extend greetings to all the dear people who meet here tonight, to help us celebrate this the fortieth anniversary of our church. The Lord made the mountains and the hills; He made the oceans and the dew drops; He made nature's garden to blossom as the rose; He also made the prairies of O'Brien county, Iowa, for its first settlers to live in.

We also knew, that in order to prosper, there must be a place for these people to worship that God who had done so much for them. So, in the year 1872, when there were only a few straggling settlers on these prairies, there was a young minister, Rev. H. D. Wiard, who had come from Michigan, with his young bride, and, you might say, who had come to prepare the way for this, our beautiful church of today, since it was through his untiring energy and faithfulness that the first church of northwest O'Brien county, Iowa, was built.

The first church service was held on the 18th of August, 1872, at the Dan McKay ranch, which is now the Louis Younger place, one mile south of Sheldon. The building consisted of a room fourteen by sixteen feet, without plaster, and with no cupola or porch. There were six Congregational members present and, I believe, were all the church members in these parts at that time. These members were Rev. Wiard and wife, M. G. McClellan and wife, and William Butterfield and wife. The writer and husband did not belong to this church at that time, and, in fact, the writer was not at that first service, though her husband was. I had not yet arrived at my lovely prairie home; my husband was ahead of me at the home and at this service, as the men always try to be ahead of the women, and perhaps for our good.

From that time on the work of the church was in the hearts of the people, but there are only a very few of the dear people of today who know and can realize the hardships the settlers of that time had to endure. When the seeds were planted and began to grow, and we began to think, now we will have gold to pick up, King Grasshopper would appear and always took

first choice. But Brother Wiard stood by us, and, with prayer and words of encouragement, ever kept the need of a church before us. In the winter of 1872 three prayer meetings were started and kept up weekly, the first being held at the M. G. McClellan home, the next at Butterfield's, the next at Van Epps', and so on. On May 10, 1873, there were seven other names added to the church roll. The church was incorporated January 29, 1874, with the name, the First Congregational church of Sheldon, Iowa, and from that time on, you might say, the word was, Go! On the 21st day of September, 1874, a building committee was appointed, and on the 10th day of September, 1875, a contract with builders was signed. The carpenter work was done by Mr. Walker and the masonry by George Berry. The first work was done on the church September 24, 1875, and on December 20th, of the same year, the church was completed, lacking but the seats. The first seats used were simply rough boards, supported on nail kegs. In spite of the backache that came from sitting on these seats, it really seemed harder to get new seats than it was to build the church. In the building and furnishing of the church many sacrifices were made and much hard work done, every honest method conceivable being used to get money for this purpose. I recall a mush and milk social given at the Benjamin Jones home, when each one dipped in a spoon, at so much a dip. The first money raised to build the church was in the winter of 1874. It was by a social held upstairs, where the Hollander drug store now is. Mrs. M. G. McClellan and myself baked two large cakes and brought them to the social and succeeded in selling them for sixty dollars. This was the way it was done. A beauty contest was made over the cakes, and the contest lay between a newly married woman, Mrs. J. A. Brown, and a young, unmarried woman, now Mrs. Dr. Cram. The decision of the contest was left to the vote of the people, a stated sum being charged for the tickets used in voting. The (infatuated) husband, of course, looked after his wife's interests, and in this was supported by other married men. The young men undertook the care of the maiden, but from lack of experience or money, or both, they fell down in the undertaking, and the married men got the cakes.

The Congregational Church Building Society furnished four hundred dollars toward building the church, providing the members and friends would do the rest. The lumber for the church was bought of Mr. Wycoff, who then had what is now Strong's lumber yard. The first marriage in the church was a double one, July 2, 1876, being Frank Piper and Miss Eva Bronson, and M. Cook and Miss E. Brush. There was no friction in those days between the members and the pastor of the flock and harmony was the

rule, and the people were justly proud and much pleased with their new church, which had sprung from such a humble beginning. It was unpretentious, but quite comfortable, and was built on the surface of the ground, and heated by stoves, but in 1888, through the generosity of Mr. Aborn, a lecture room with basement apartments, including furnace and stone foundation was added, and then we were a much pleased people.

In the spring of 1874, after the church was regularly incorporated, with Rev. Wiard ordained as pastor, and before the building of the church, services were held in the dining room of the new Sheldon Hotel. Mrs. Butterfield was organist and Mrs. A. B. Johnson, Eva Bronson (afterward Mrs. Frank Piper) and Charlie Kent composed the choir. The first Sabbath school was organized in the room over where now is Kollander's drug store. I do not recall who acted as superintendent but believe it was the Reverend Wiard.

I have forgotten just when the first Ladies' Aid Society was formed, but think it was along in the eighties. At any rate it has always been of material assistance in the upbuilding of the church.

Brother Wiard remained with us until 1875 and there came after him in the following order these pastors: Rev. Palmer, 1876-77; Rev. Southworth, 1877-83; Rev. Brintnall, 1883-88; Rev. Cole, 1888-90; Rev. Hanscom, 1890-93; Rev. Cummings, 1893-99; Rev. Bray, 1899-08; Rev. Westlake, from September 1, 1908, up to the present hour. In the year 1900 the members, seeing the need of a larger church, secured subscriptions for that purpose and in May, 1901, work was begun on this our present structure. The Ladies' Aid Society did splendid work toward raising the money needed, and we now feel greatly pleased with our church home, which is free of debt. Our membership numbers two hundred and forty-six resident members, representing one hundred and forty-five families. During the present pastorate upwards of ninety have united with the church, over one thousand two hundred dollars improvements have been made in and on the building and paid, while a parsonage has been purchased, on which there is still some indebtedness. The records of this church, covering a period of six or seven years, were burned in a fire which destroyed Mr. Wyman's house, where they were kept by him as a church official. All we can make known concerning those years we must furnish from memory, and there are but few of the old workers left who have recollection of the doings of that period.

One thing comes to my mind, I must not fail to mention, as it shows a fine record for a small child. In the summer of 1875 Maggie Jones, now

Mrs. Eggart, began playing the organ, when she was so small that she had to be held on the organ stool. Mrs. Butterfield taught her to play the hymn tunes, and for six years, until she started off to school, she never missed a Sunday in her playing. I must also mention that Benjamin Jones and Mr. Parkhurst donated the stucco for the plastering of the church, and some one donated an old chair for pulpit use, and after a time Mr. Jones gave the cane seated chair now in use in the lecture room, to take the place of the old chair.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones, although not enrolled as church members, have been with us from the first and helped us in many ways by counsel and gifts. After the addition of our lecture room to the first church, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Hartenbower donated our present pulpit. Among others who have had a share in our hardships and today have the most reason for rejoicing are the Winslows, Mrs. A. D. Johnson, Mrs. Frank Hollenbeck, the Bassetts, Mrs. Cram and Mrs. W. L. Ayers.

Many, many of our most zealous workers have gone to their reward, but I feel that their spirits look down upon us today and know the good they have done. Other faithful ones have moved elsewhere, but are not forgotten. This paper may contain some mistakes, since memory is not always reliable, some records are not available, and those who could have aided my memory are in a better world. I ask your pardon if this paper has seemed tedious to you, and express the wish that you may find as great happiness in church work as I have found.

Every other section in Carroll township was what they called railroad land. It had been taken as a right of way by the Omaha & St. Paul or the Chicago & Milwaukee railroad. These sections were not open to the settlers, but many squatted on them and made quite extensive improvements. Then when the land came in market some of them could buy it, while others tried to hold on by their squatter rights. In the meantime others would buy it over their heads and they would have to give up and lose all their improvements. Carroll township land is now worth from one hundred and fifty to two hundred dollars per acre, and in the years of 1873-4-5 and 6, during the time of the grasshopper reign, I have known men to offer their land and every thing they had for five hundred dollars, to get the money to get out of the country with. There are not many of the first settlers of Carroll township left, some having left the county and a few still living, but the silent grave yards hold the most of them.

CHAPTER XVI.

BANKS AND BANKING.

The first infantile banking enterprise in O'Brien county was at Old O'Brien in 1869, when John R. Pumphrey made arrangements with Weare & Allison, bankers at Sioux City, giving him the right to draw checks and drafts on them in their name on their correspondents. Mr. Pumphrey never opened up a business building as a bank there. Indeed the account as kept there at Sioux City, of the checks, drafts, etc., was the only record. Prior to that the only use for a bank had been at Cherokee and Fort Dodge, but not by any direct drafts, as Mr. Pumphrey for the first time in the county was given the right to do. Mr. Pumphrey opened up his first bank in a small frame building on the site of the present Hub hotel, in Primghar, in the latter part of 1872 or first part of 1873.

We have stated, and shown elsewhere in this history, that Mr. Pumphrey's bank, which he called the Exchange Bank, was in reality but little more than a clearing house in handling public funds, both county, township and school, and in the buying and selling of county warrants and bonds, putting them into judgment and speculating on the margins and profits on same. It is true that he also filled the small needs of a bank in the eastern and southern parts of the county. We will not dwell longer on that feature. As B. F. McCormack and Mr. Pumphrey each said at sundry times to the writer, they "had to do and take part in the business that was going on or they would have no business to do." About every dollar of public funds in the county in the first instance passed through his bank and his very ordinary bank safe. Mr. Pumphrey was a ready penman and kept a neat record, was himself a home-steader, an old soldier, but never really discovered the full definition of public funds. To him they were funds to be used in all classes of public business and were so used generally by himself and by him loaned to others in the county. In fact, the public funds was the only banking capital.

PRIMGHAR'S BANKS.

John R. Pumphrey and Ed. C. Brown were the first bankers in the county. Mr. Brown in the first instance had been a clerk in Mr. Pumphrey's

bank. In real fact they had studied up the matter together and, so to speak, taught each other, during the same months in banking, with a view of each starting a bank, Mr. Pumphrey at Pringhar and Mr. Brown at Sheldon, which was carried out later, each in a common frame building perhaps twenty to thirty feet in size. Neither had ever had any banking experience even in a small town.

Mr. Pumphrey started a set of abstracts of title and commenced on a land list and paid taxes for nonresidents. Mr. Pumphrey's experience was not quite equal to the severe strain through a trying period from 1872 to 1881 in Pringhar and the county. He and A. J. Brock, and later on W. C. Green, and still later J. G. Chrysler and his store and bank and public funds became much intermingled. In 1881 Mr. Pumphrey sold his bank to Schee & Achorn (George W. Schee and Clinton E. Achorn), who conducted it until 1883, when they sold to Slocum & Turner, composed of George R. Slocum and Frank A. Turner. Following this year, for six years Mr. Turner was clerk of the courts, but later on moved to Salem, Oregon, where he has since engaged as an attorney at law. Mr. Slocum developed into one of the real far-reaching banking men of the county. Mr. Slocum, with O. H. Montzheimer and H. W. Smith, had much to do in developing and laying the later foundations for what became the First National Bank.

Isaac W. Daggett, in 1877, started a bank in a small building, about ten by sixteen feet in size, in Pringhar. Mr. Pumphrey often sported the fact that Mr. Daggett run a two-by-four bank and kept hogs and fed them himself. But the curious fact followed that Mr. Daggett made himself rich and Mr. Pumphrey broke up. Mr. Daggett did not participate in the debt and county warrant dregs, though his banking business was smaller than that of Mr. Pumphrey.

RALPH HINMAN, BANKER.

Sometime about the year 1888 a young man moved to Pringhar, with his father, from a farm in Baker township, a man who was destined to, and has since, become one of the main bankers in Pringhar as well as in the county. We refer to Ralph Hinman, the son of Hon. John F. Hinman, for two years a member of the Iowa State Legislature from this county. The son, then just past his majority, was first a clerk and then cashier in the Pringhar State Bank with George W. Schee. Later on he, with William Archer, John H. Archer, John F. Hinman and George R. Whitmer (later to include D. H. Smith, J. L. E. Peck and L. D. Collier), organized the

Pringhar Savings Bank, with William Archer and Ralph Hinman as managers. Still later Mr. Hinman sold his stock to William Briggs.

About 1897 Mr. Hinman and George R. Whitmer organized the Farmers Bank as a co-partnership, and conducted it for some time. Later it was reorganized as the Farmers National Bank, which was conducted as such until 1904, when its assets were sold to and incorporated in the First National Bank. Mr. Whitmer was a successful financier, and during these periods served two years in the Iowa State Legislature.

The First National Bank was organized in 1889, and Mr. Hinman later became engaged with George R. Slocum and others therein. This experience, running through all these years, developed Mr. Hinman into a ripe and substantial banker. Mr. Hinman has for some years been cashier of that bank, and since January 1, 1913, he has been its president, with Roy King promoted to his place as cashier.

Returning to the bank of Mr. Pumphrey, he sold it to Schee & Achorn in 1881, and they, in 1883, sold to Slocum & Turner as in part stated above. Schee & Achorn conducted a very extensive real estate department with this bank. They were also financial agents in the rebonding of the county debt in connection with Reiniger & Balch, bankers of Charles City, Iowa.

PRINGHAR STATE BANK.

In 1886 George W. Schee, in connection with Frank Frisbee, Fred Frisbee, Ed.C. Brown, Dr. C. Longshore, J. E. Van Patten, C. S. McLaury, E. F. Parkhurst and J. L. E. Peck, and Rudolph Blankenburg, now mayor of Philadelphia, organized and incorporated the Pringhar State Bank, with W. J. Lorshbough, and later on in the same year, 1886, J. L. E. Peck as cashier, who continued as such until 1890, and was then followed by Fred Whitehouse, and still later by Ralph Hinman as cashiers, respectively, for the years up to 1894.

PRINGHAR SAVINGS BANK.

In 1894 the Pringhar State Bank and its good will was sold or rather reorganized into the present Pringhar Savings Bank by William Archer, John H. Archer, John F. Hinman, George R. Whitmer and George W. Schee and L. D. Collier and later by William Briggs and J. L. E. Peck. The long experience of William Briggs as an accountant in large business, together

with the still longer experience of his father, Stephen Briggs, president of the First National Bank of Clinton, Iowa, for a lifetime in business, and bringing to it the support of large financial properties in the background by each of these parties, brought to Pringhar what are now, with the First National Bank, two solid banking institutions in the town.

Be it remarked here that both George W. Schee and John H. Archer have figured largely in many of the banks of the county.

A statement of the Pringhar Savings Bank would not be complete without special mention of the services of its three cashiers, William Archer, D. H. Smith and Lester T. Aldinger. William Archer laid substantial foundations in its organization and first years. D. H. Smith came to the bank with seven years' experience in the Bank of Archer and prior to that several years in the bank at Marcus. The bank was equally fortunate in a successor in Lester T. Aldinger, who had had an experience of eight years with all the banks of the county as county treasurer.

We can not close the banking history of Pringhar in a better way than to state the rapid advancement of its youngest banker, Roy King. On January 1, 1913, Mr. King was by its directors elected cashier. He had stepped direct from his high school graduation in the Pringhar public schools to a prominent place as a clerk in the First National Bank. He was at once recognized as a coming representative of banking throughout the county. It has been truly remarked that Mr. King was a banker and accountant from the beginning.

Charles Hinz and Harold Metcalf, of the First National, and Charles Kopp, of the Pringhar Savings Bank, are assistants in the two banks.

SHELDON BANKS.

Sheldon, in proportion to her size in population, her railroad facilities making her a distributing point and other favorable conditions, has four banks. It is not merely in numbers, however, that we speak. The property valuation is well up toward the million mark. It is a high compliment to the bankers of Sheldon, but the same can apply quite universally in the county, when we say that those bankers have practically all grown up with the growth of the county, and made their success and their fortunes in O'Brien county with the two or three exceptions in northwestern Iowa. There have been but little importations in banking circles into the county. They therefore understand its needs.

THE SHELTON STATE BANK.

The oldest and first bank in Sheldon was what later became the Sheldon Bank and still later the Sheldon State Bank and established by Ed. C. Brown. It was first started in the small frame building of very modest size. Sheldon and Pringlar were platted the same year, and its two first banks started nearly simultaneously. This bank developed into large proportions. Mr. Brown was a man of a large conception of a real bank and banking, even though he did fail later. He enjoyed a large banking constituency and grew in figures and sizes of transactions until the year 1903, when, unfortunately, his bank failed. This has, happily, been the only bank failure in the county. It went into the hands of a receiver, R. W. Ady acting in that capacity. Its assets and proceedings were in the courts for several years. Mr. Brown had participated in many of the public affairs of both county and town of Sheldon for thirty years, and was state railroad commissioner for three years. He had erected a fine banking building of stone. He seemed to have reached a climax. The remark was often made, "As good a banker as Ed. C. Brown." No banker ever in the county could write a more terse, condensed business letter of instruction on a business transaction of any kind than he. He scarce ever wrote a letter longer than two-thirds of a common letter sheet, but it was always remarked that he expressed every necessary item and never used a word more. He had dealt with substantial things for thirty years. He had been tested and by the public judgment pronounced a success. His failure was a great surprise. He had been both an old soldier and an old homesteader. His bank in the courts paid a dividend of seventy-three per cent. In this article we can only mention his long career as an historic item. It was seriously to be regretted that a man so gifted should have met with such a misfortune to both himself and the public. He was indicted for embezzlement and his trial by a jury lasted one week, and he was acquitted. But we must turn to our better sides of banking again.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, SHELTON.

We strike a better chord in the First National Bank of Sheldon. With due courtesy to all others in the county, we think it will be conceded as admittedly the first, the largest, and the nearest approach to a city and metropolitan bank of either of the twenty banks in this county. Both its deposits and its loans amount to practically three-quarters of a million dollars. Indeed it is to a merited extent a bank of deposit, and bank drafts

drawn upon it are much in circulation. Its former president, W. M. Smith, did much to establish its solid foundations. By reason of an unfortunate and severe railroad injury he was compelled to cease active work in banking. Its present president, Fred E. Frisbee, and the family of Frisbee brothers, Frank and Fred Frisbee, John McCandless and John H. Archer and others have added a large strength.

The First National Bank started at a time when there was great need of more banking capital to assist in developing the new country, and in February, 1888, began business in a modest way with the following directors: George W. Schee, president; J. E. Van Patten, vice-president; C. S. McLaury, cashier; Frank Frisbee, John H. Archer and W. M. Smith. The board were all men who had other large business interests which took their entire time, and it was intended the first officers should serve only until such a time as a suitable manager of banking experience could be found who could give his entire time to the business. The man they selected was W. M. Smith, a successful banker of several years' experience, who was cashier of a bank at Milford, Iowa. He moved to Sheldon early in 1889, and at once assumed the active management of the business.

Mr. Schee, who lived at Pringhar, sold his entire interest at the time, and C. S. McLaury was elected president; Frank Frisbee, vice-president, and Messrs. Van Patten, Archer and Fred Frisbee, directors. These men were large land owners and men who were very successful in all their business, and immediately gave the bank a prestige for stability which has always stayed by it, and the bank was known from the first as a Frisbee-Archer-Smith institution.

Money was scarce and deposits small, and consequently banks were limited as to the business they could do. In July, 1890, the capital was \$250,000 and deposits only \$37,000, when Fred E. Frisbee, a young man just out of the public school, accepted a position as clerk under Cashier Smith, and for a number of years these two men were the only persons actively engaged in the bank.

Mr. McLaury continued as president until 1895, when he sold his interest, and Frank Frisbee was made president; J. E. Van Patten, vice-president; W. M. Smith, cashier, and Fred E. Frisbee, assistant cashier; John H. Archer and Fred Frisbee, directors, and the bank has continued under the same management until this day, with some changes in officers as the older men shifted responsibilities onto younger shoulders.

The only break in the ranks was in 1905, when Mr. Van Patten died.

In 1903 W. M. Smith was elected president; J. H. Archer, vice-president; Fred E. Frisbee, cashier, and in 1910 Mr. Smith, feeling he wanted to be relieved from active duty, retired as president, being made chairman of the board, with Fred E. Frisbee, president and manager; J. H. Archer, vice-president; F. W. Bloxham, cashier; F. L. Barragar, assistant cashier; Frank Frisbee and Fred Frisbee, directors. Mr. Bloxham entered the bank in 1899 as a bookkeeper, having previously been employed as deputy postmaster, and as a clerk in the Sheldon Bank. Mr. Barragar came to the bank as bookkeeper in 1907.

At the present time the bank has a capital of \$100,000; surplus, \$50,000; deposits, \$900,000, with resources of a million and a quarter dollars. It has paid semi-annual dividends from the very beginning and is one of the strong banks of Iowa.

UNION BANK.

The oldest bank now in Sheldon is the Union Bank, established in 1882, by its president, George W. Sherwood, and William H. Sleeper and A. W. Sleeper. Like the place that John H. Archer fills in the First National as one of the large farmer stockholders and directors, so Mr. Sherwood has for a generation filled a similar situation in the Union Bank. This bank is a private or partnership bank. The partners in individual responsibility stand for a half million dollars.

SHELDON NATIONAL BANK.

The Sheldon National Bank as now conducted was organized by James F. Toy, of Sioux City, and is among a large number of what is known as the "Toy Banks," associated as branch banks in northwestern Iowa. Associated in this bank is Hon. W. C. Kimmel, ex-state senator of this district.

SHELDON SAVINGS BANK.

In 1912 Sheldon was well represented by three banks, national institutions, and a private bank, but did not have a state or savings bank, and in January of that year local capitalists started the Sheldon Savings Bank in the building formerly used by the old Sheldon Bank. The new institution is a growing bank with \$30,000 capital, and deposits of \$100,000 and is backed by some of the most substantial men in Sheldon. The officers are William

Myers, president; Dr. W. H. Myers, vice-president; E. B. Myers, cashier; John Versteeg, assistant cashier; Dr. F. L. Myers, John H. Archer and Fred E. Frisbee, directors.

Messrs. Frisbee and Archer are also interested in several other banks in the county, and Myers Brothers are among the most successful and conservative real estate owners in Sheldon and the president, William Myers, is owner of a large and successful department store. All are men who give stability and standing to any institution of which they may be connected.

SANBORN'S BANKS.

Sanborn has two banking institutions, each under state incorporation. The first bank in Sanborn was established by Isaac W. Daggett. In 1878 Mr. Daggett moved his small banking office from Primghar, together with his safe and residence building, his removal being concurrent with the building of the Milwaukee road. That winter, with Henry C. Lane and Dr. C. Longshore, each of Sheldon, as partners, he opened up the first bank in the town, then as Mr. Stocum expressed it, "Lariated out in the prairie grass." Later Mr. Daggett sold out his interests to Harker & Green, composed of William Harker and J. L. Green, bankers and land dealers from Ida Grove, which was continued until Mr. Green retired. Then Mr. Harker conducted it as a private bank. A little later, in 1893, it was organized by William Harker, Ezra M. Brady, J. H. Daly and others as the First National Bank of Sanborn. On May 26, 1895, Mr. Harker died in the very prime of a successful and honored life. The First National Bank was continued until 1899, when it liquidated by desire of its stockholders, and was re-established as the Sanborn Savings Bank by W. W. Johnson, Ezra M. Brady, J. A. Johnson and W. M. Smith, president of the First National Bank of Sheldon, and others, under the immediate management of J. H. Daly as president and J. A. Johnson as cashier.

In the spring of 1881 Isaac W. Daggett again started a bank on the present site of the Sanborn State Bank, which, in 1882, he sold to the Ellis brothers (C. D. and A. E.) and George B. Davids and Morton Wilber, who organized and incorporated same as the Sanborn State Bank, with Morton Wilber as cashier and manager. Mr. Wilber was perhaps one of the most exacting and conservative bankers ever in the county. Thus Isaac W. Daggett, in a sense, was the founder of both of Sanborn's two strong banks. Its present management is Peter Velie, president, and W. A. Solon, cashier.

PAULLINA BANKS.

The Bank of Paullina was organized and opened its doors for business on the first day of August, 1883, with John Baumann as its first president and owner of the capital stock. Owing to the failure of his health, Mr. Baumann, on the first day of February, 1885, sold and transferred his interest in the Bank of Paullina to John Metcalf & Company, consisting of John Metcalf and J. D. Simpson, John Metcalf being president and J. D. Simpson, cashier, and owing to growing business, in 1886, John V. Adkins entered the bank as bookkeeper and continued under this organization about six years.

On July 26, 1892, the bank was reorganized, being still known as John Metcalf & Company, the members of the firm being John Metcalf and John V. Adkins, J. D. Simpson retiring from the firm.

In 1903 John Metcalf & Company erected the splendid bank building and brick block, which would be a credit to any city in the state of Iowa, and where the business of the Bank of Paullina is carried on at the present time. In 1908 John Metcalf died, and John V. Adkins became the president, and W. C. Metcalf, vice-president, George Raw, cashier, and H. C. Lage, assistant cashier. Under the provisions of the will of John Metcalf, the bank should continue business under the old firm name for a time, and it is so conducted at present.

The Bank of Paullina has always enjoyed the full confidence of the people and has steadily grown under the sound, judicious, conservative and safe management of the owners and officers, until today it stands as one of the strongest banks in northwestern Iowa. Throughout all the vicissitudes of pioneer days and repeated panics, the Bank of Paullina has stood firm and reliable, ever ready to serve its patrons and customers, while many other strong banks were compelled to temporarily suspend business until the panic passed. Very much of the permanent growth and ever-increasing prosperity of the bank may be traced to the skillful, painstaking and untiring efforts of the president, John V. Adkins, and the never-failing courtesy and business ability of its cashier, George Raw.

FARMERS STATE BANK.

The Farmers State Bank of Paullina was organized March 31, 1886, with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars, approved by state officials. George Hakeman was its first president, and Stephen Harris its first

cashier. A certificate of incorporation was issued to it by the secretary of state, on June 6, 1886, and the bank commenced business at once. It is truthfully said that the bank has been an illustration of good, careful management, and has made a splendid growth through the years since its organization, and the proof of this is made certain by the examination of one of its official reports to the auditor of state, as by law provided, showing deposits of the sum of \$296,204.32, which clearly indicates that the people of this community have unbounded confidence in the bank, in its management and its officers.

This growth of the financial condition of the bank has been steady from the day of the opening of its doors, and the conservative management by its able cashier, George W. Harris, son of the first cashier, with the counsel and advice of James F. Toy, its president, has made it a monument of solidity in the financial world, a financial institution that has been able to and prepared to serve its patrons, even in the most trying times of panic and financial disturbance. It is a proper and just boast of the Farmers State Bank that it has individual responsibility of over one million dollars, and in proof of this statement the names of James F. Toy, William Cain, Henry Hibbing, C. F. Myer and John Ginger, as directors, are submitted, all men of wealth, integrity and first-class business ability. The offices of the Farmers State Bank are in its building, corner of Main and Broadway streets, Paullina.

One of the best evidences of solidity and permanency is the business courtesy existing between the Farmers State Bank and the Bank of Paullina, and it has been one of the most pleasing features of our banks that they have always been willing to come forward and back any enterprise started for the good of the town of Paullina, each bank being willing to do more than its share of carrying the financial responsibility on all occasions, and the fraternal spirit of our banks has materially helped to place it in the very forefront of the prosperous towns of Iowa.

BANKS IN HARTLEY.

In 1882 Frank Patch and Mart Shea started a private bank, which was later changed into and called the Peoples Bank. Like Sheldon, Hartley has four strong banks. In 1886 the present Hartley State Bank was organized and incorporated by Frank Patch, Mary E. Colby, Freeman R. Patch, John W. Cravens and James F. Cravens. Frank Patch was one of the pioneer bankers in the county. He was on the ground with the prairie conditions and is still there in the county with his own prosperities. Frank Patch was

one of the men who jumped up out of the prairie grass into a bank and made it permanent. He succeeded not only in making himself and his bank permanent, but therein assisted in making Hartley permanent. Special notice should be made of the fact of this one lady banker, Mrs. Mary E. Colby, real estate owner, investor and business woman. She was not such merely in name, but in an all-around reality, in the fact that through all the years she has passed judgment upon her own large, among the largest, property transactions in the county, and her's has been one of the most prominent successes in the county.

A little later, in 1893, was established the First National Bank of Hartley, by E. T. Broders, W. J. Davis, H. T. Broders and J. H. Bordewick. This group of financiers have not only established a permanent banking institution, but have likewise dealt in mother earth, that has made solid so many private and bank fortunes in the county, and have also taken part in the upbuilding of Hartley and the county. Hartley enjoys two railroads and has probably the largest acreage of trading territory of either town in the county, especially to the northeast. Though not as large as Sheldon, this fact, with other energies, has made four banks possible.

This same group of men, at least in large part, in 1903 established the co-operating Farmers Savings Bank, to meet some conditions in the large farming constituency not otherwise provided, it being conducted in the same building as the First National Bank.

Hartley, like Paullina, has a very large German population, suggesting what was established in 1903 in the German Savings Bank. Its articles of incorporation were executed and organization effected October 4, 1902, by J. T. Conn, G. E. Knaack, George R. Whitmer, Ralph Hinman, George W. McFarland, J. H. Hass, Theodore Miller, John Fick, J. H. Voss, George Bader, Henry Ruwe and William T. Voss. Its president, J. T. Conn, had been county attorney one term and county auditor four years. G. E. Knaack is its cashier.

MONETA SAVINGS BANK.

The Moneta Savings Bank at Moneta is an affiliated bank of the First National Bank of Hartley. This bank was established in 1907 by local capital. Its first and present president is W. J. Davis; its first cashier was Albert Bierkamp, and its first vice-president, D. S. McNaughton. The first bank building was burned in the great fire of March 8, 1910, but was immediately rebuilt. The present bank building is of concrete material, amply reinforced by steel rods. Ninety per cent. of the stock in this bank is held by persons

residing in the vicinity of Moneta. The present capital is \$10,000;; surplus and profits, \$3,000; deposits, about \$90,000. The officers in 1913 are W. J. Davis, president; P. M. Schoelerman, vice-president; W. A. Burlett, cashier; C. L. Burlett, assistant cashier.

SUTHERLAND BANKS.

The town of Sutherland has two banks, the Sutherland State Bank and the First Savings Bank.

Sutherland has its banking foundations in original O'Brien county productions. William P. Davis for many years in the early day resided upon and personally farmed his large section farm on section 36, in Dale township. A. J. Sieh, associated with Mr. Davis, has had a long experience in the lumber business and T. B. Bark as both banker and investor, have held up their contributions in its management. The Sutherland State Bank was organized September 15, 1886, by W. P. Davis, D. M. Sheldon and C. E. Achorn. Prior to that E. E. Brintnall had conducted a bank connected with other parties.

Two of the officials of the First Savings Bank, Ralph C. Jordan and Clay P. Jordan, were each raised from childhood on their father's large farm in Grant township, and thus learned first the farm needs in the county. Ralph C. Jordan is now a member of the board of supervisors and is thus dealing with finances in this still larger field. The elder Samuel J. Jordan laid the first foundations and the bank has well earned its popular name of "Jordan's Bank."

It can thus be seen that the present six main managers of Sutherland's two banks literally "dug themselves up" out of the black O'Brien county soil.

BANK OF ARCHER.

This is one of the strong banks in one of the lesser towns. It was founded by D. H. Smith in 1898 and was reorganized in 1901 by John H. Archer, William Briggs and D. H. Smith. Though a private bank, it is one of the safest in the county. The individual ownership by John H. Archer of about three thousand acres of high-value land laying adjoining and surrounding Archer, stands out in land security to every stockholder and depositor as a bond. D. H. Smith was its cashier for its first seven years. We have already called attention to one peculiar feature that our bankers have

grown up and make their test of success in the county. This is true not only relating to Mr. Archer, but likewise as applies to W. J. Sinyard, its present cashier, who came to this bank from Summit township, just east of Archer, and had been for several years in the service of the Illinois Central Railroad.

FARMERS SAVINGS BANK OF GAZA.

This bank was organized October 2, 1909, by the filing and execution of articles of incorporation by Henry B. Lake, Norman W. Salisbury, Theodore Jaacks, Hans Peterson, N. C. Wilkinson, R. N. Wilkinson, C. F. Reifsteck and Charles Schnoor, with a capital of \$10,000. It now has a surplus of \$2,500 and owns a good bank building. Its present officers are president, F. W. Martin; vice-president, Henry B. Lake; cashier, C. F. Reifsteck.

BANK OF CALUMET.

This bank was established as early as 1885 by that family of bankers, composed of L. Reifsteck, president; George Reifsteck, cashier, and C. F. Reifsteck, assistant cashier, with a capital of \$10,000. Later on, in 1910, C. F. Reifsteck, with others, organized the bank at Gaza as shown.

EMPIRE LOAN AND INVESTMENT COMPANY.

The Empire Loan and Investment Company, of Sheldon, was organized September 12, 1885, by George W. Schee and C. S. McLaury. While this institution was not strictly a bank, yet it performed many of the functions of a bank. For many years, both as conducted by C. S. McLaury, who for years had the personal management, and later when it passed under the management of John McCandless, it probably made as many real estate loans, not only in O'Brien county, but in many adjoining counties and in Minnesota as any one Eastern loan company doing business in the county.

The company continued as the largest farm loan company in O'Brien county for twenty years, in the meantime passing into the control of John McCandless and E. B. Starrett. After the expiration of its charter in 1905 it still continued in the same business, but as a private company owned by John McCandless and his wife, Kate L. McCandless.

Iowa laws being changed in 1913 granting extended powers and privileges to loan and trust companies, allowing them to act in more of an individual capacity as guardians, trustees, and executors of persons and estates,

as well as allowing them to buy and sell real estate, make farm loans, and write insurance, Mr. McCandless decided to reincorporate his business and take in some new stockholders, and some younger men to assist him in the management, and in January, 1914, he took out a charter as the Empire Loan and Trust Company with paid-up capital of \$50,000, and with the following officers and stockholders: John McCandless, president; E. B. Starrett, vice-president; E. C. Starrett, secretary; C. O. Button, treasurer; Fred E. Frisbee, John H. Archer and Judge W. D. Boies.

O'Brien county has indeed a substantial banking plant, if we may be allowed that expression. The whole banking system of the county may be said to be embodied in a solid groundwork. Indeed we can scarcely name a single large wind-bag, chuck hole, scheme or visionary promotion in which any large capital is invested within the county. The investments by its bankers and citizens have been largely either in loans to men owning farms in moderate amounts, or invested in the land itself, which can neither be burned up or stolen. The chances are very few for even small losses. This is true in an unusual degree in this county as compared with many localities. These large surpluses now set apart more than amply furnish this security even to its stockholders. A large part of the bank stock of the whole county would sell for from one dollar and a half to two dollars for each dollar of bank stock outstanding. The very fact that there are no banks and scarce any bank stock for sale in the county evidences this reliability and security of the banking system in the county. While it may be somewhat statistical in figures and names, we will close this chapter on banking with a complete list of its banking institutions showing their presidents and cashiers and other officials, the amount of capital stock, the amounts of surplus, deposits and loans, with the correspondents on which bank drafts are drawn.

In round numbers, it will be seen that the total capital stock of banks issued in the county is six hundred thousand dollars, with a surplus of three hundred thousand dollars. In other words, the banks of the county have set apart a surplus or reserve fund equal to one-half the amount of its capital as additional strength to the several banks and likewise as a security to its depositors.

The total deposits are about four and one-half million dollars. The outstanding loans or bills receivable are practically in the same amounts. We give this list of banks and officials below and write this chapter on banking as showing the substantial men who have had in the past and now handle the large property transactions of the county.

In addition to these actual managers of the banks, we call attention to the fact that each bank of the county has a long list of farmers owning bank stock in these several institutions, which, when we realize the fact that each farmer owning a quarter section of land is worth twenty-five thousand dollars, and these farmers owning larger farms in many cases, we may appreciate the force of these statements. Land investment is solid and safe.

This being an agricultural county, its bankers and citizens in their investments have naturally followed the farm and landed idea. Practically all the bankers and capitalists in the county have for thirty years been continually investors in land in Minnesota, Wisconsin, the Dakotas and other western states and Canada. The older farmers, as they have grown in wealth, with families of boys and girls to be provided for, have followed the same trend and invested in the cheaper lands, that the children, too, might follow in their footsteps and grow up with those newer states.

For instance, the single combination of George R. Slocum, O. H. Montzheimer and John Metcalf and others associated with them have opened up sundry separate tracts of new lands in Minnesota and Wisconsin, in single bunches of more than forty thousand acres and other lesser tracts. Mr. Schee, Mr. Patch and many others have handled and settled up, by inducement to settlers, tracts in the thousands of acres. They thereby not only made much money themselves, but in result acted as financial guides to purchasers, in many cases financing these purchasers for many years and secured homes to many who could not otherwise have secured homes. We doubt if a dozen counties in Iowa have contributed more largely in successful and actual development of large tracts than those who have gone out with their funds from O'Brien county. We might name other syndicates within the county who have financed similar enterprises, as for instance, Oliver M. Shonkwiler, W. P. Davis, W. J. Davis, Frank Patch, T. B. Bark, John H. Archer, William Archer, Ralph Hinman, J. L. E. Peck, William Briggs, George W. Harris, George Raw, John V. Adkins, H. R. Dealy, J. H. Daly, William Harker, J. L. Green, George R. Whitmer, Frank Teabout, Elmer E. Hall, Allen Crossan, W. W. Artherholt, Clarence W. Ingham, W. A. Rosecrans, W. S. Armstrong, John McCandless, D. H. Smith, Joseph Shinski, L. T. Aldinger, the Myers Brothers, Frank and Fred Frisbee, Jurgen Renken, C. S. McLaury, and many others too numerous to mention.

This banking strength, being largely backed by land and landed values and land ideas, has given our banks a land specie and coinage value that places all estimates and valuations above par in dollars and cents.

It can indeed truly be said that O'Brien is the one county where every

farmer runs a bank and where every banker runs a farm. It can farther be truly said that O'Brien county brains, and O'Brien county capital, and O'Brien county dollars, and O'Brien county farming manual labor, has accumulated, developed, marshaled and "Pierpont-Morganized" the large properties of the county into one great banking house, represented in twenty banking institutions, well distributed in our towns for the general farm and agricultural benefits.

PRESENT BANK STATISTICS.

Pringhar.

First National Bank—Number 785; established, 1889; president, H. W. Smith; vice-president, O. H. Montzheimer; cashier, Ralph Hinman; assistant cashier, R. M. King; capital, \$25,000; surplus, \$26,000; deposits, \$280,000; loans, \$280,000. Correspondents, Corn Exchange National Bank, Chicago, and Security National Bank, Sioux City.

Pringhar Savings Bank—Number 786; established 1894; President, William Briggs; vice-president, John H. Archer; cashier, L. T. Aldinger; capital, \$30,000; surplus, \$9,000; deposits, \$165,000; loans, \$175,000. Correspondents, Corn Exchange National Bank, Chicago; First National Bank, Sheldon, and People's Trust and Savings Bank, Clinton.

Sheldon.

First National Bank—Number 307; established 1888; president, Fred E. Frisbee; vice-president, John H. Archer; cashier, F. W. Bloxam; assistant cashier, F. L. Barrager; capital, \$100,000; surplus, \$50,000; deposits, \$750,000; loans, \$700,000. Correspondents, National Park Bank, New York; Continental Commercial National Bank, Chicago, and First National Bank, Minneapolis.

Sheldon National Bank—Number 307; president, James F. Toy; vice-president, W. C. Kimmel; cashier, W. E. Clagg; assistant cashier, Delko Bloem; capital, \$50,000; surplus, \$5,000; deposits, \$180,000; loans, \$180,000. Correspondents, Fort Dearborn National Bank, Chicago; Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis; Commercial National Bank, Sioux City, and Merchants' National Bank, Cedar Rapids; established, 1905.

Sheldon Savings Bank—Number 1694; president, William Meiers; vice-president, F. L. Myers; cashier, E. B. Myers; assistant cashier, John Vesteeg;

capital, \$30,000; deposits, \$40,000; loans, \$50,000. Correspondents, National City Bank, Chicago, and First National Bank, Sioux City; established, 1912.

Union Bank—Number 306; president, G. W. Sherwood; cashier, W. H. Sleeper; individual responsibility, \$500,000. Correspondents, First National Banks, Chicago and Sioux City; established, 1882.

Sanborn.

Sanborn Savings Bank—Number 563; established as such, 1898; established as private bank by Harker & Green, 1878; president, J. H. Daly; vice-president, Fred E. Frisbee; assistant cashier, J. A. Johnson; capital, \$25,000; surplus, \$16,000; deposits, \$257,000; loans, \$221,000. Correspondents, Continental National Bank, Chicago; First National Banks, Boone and Sheldon.

Sanborn State Bank—Number 562; established, 1883; president, Peter Velie; vice-president, A. J. Shea; cashier, W. A. Solon; capital, \$25,000; assistant cashier, G. M. Solon; surplus, \$2,000; deposits, \$175,000; loans, \$155,000. Correspondents, Corn Exchange National Bank, Chicago, and First National Bank, Council Bluffs.

Hartley.

First National Bank—No. 93; established 1893; president E. F. Broders; vice-president, W. J. Davis; cashier, H. T. Broders; assistant cashier, J. H. Bordewick; capital, \$50,000; surplus, \$25,000; deposits, \$275,000; loans, \$290,000. Correspondents, Continental Commercial National Bank, Chicago; Des Moines National Bank, Des Moines; Cedar Rapids National Bank, Cedar Rapids, and First National Bank, Sheldon.

Farmers Savings Bank—No. 598; established 1903; president, Henry Schmoll; vice-president, H. C. Voss; cashier, H. T. Broders; capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$5,000; deposits, \$95,000; loans, \$85,000. Correspondents, Durant Savings Bank, Durant; First National Bank, Hartley.

German Savings Bank—No. 597; established 1902; president, J. T. Conn; vice-president, Wm. T. Voss; cashier, G. E. Knaack; assistant cashier, Wm. Greenwaldt; capital, \$20,000; surplus, \$12,000; deposits, \$250,000; loans, \$240,000. Correspondents, Continental Commercial National Bank, Chicago; Iowa National Bank, Des Moines; Merchants National Bank, Cedar Rapids.

Hartley State Bank—No. 595; established 1882; president, Frank Patch; vice-president, D. A. Patch; cashier, F. R. Patch; capital, \$50,000; surplus, \$15,000; deposits, \$290,000; loans, \$300,000. Correspondents, National Bank of the Republic, Chicago; German Savings, Davenport.

Moneta.

Moneta Savings Bank—No. 1477; established 1907; president, W. J. Davis; vice-president, P. F. Schoelerman; cashier, W. A. Burlet; assistant cashier, C. L. Burlet; capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$2,000; deposits, \$65,000; loans, \$60,000. Correspondents, Continental Commercial National Bank, Chicago; First National Bank, Hartley.

Archer.

Bank of Archer—No. 2230; established 1895; president, John H. Archer; vice-president, William Briggs; cashier, W. J. Sinyard; individual responsibility, \$500,000. Correspondents, Corn Exchange National Bank, Chicago; First National Bank, Sheldon.

Gaza.

Farmers Savings Bank—No. 1399; established 1910; president, F. W. Martin; vice-president, H. B. Lake; cashier, C. F. Reifsteck; assistant cashier, R. W. Webster; capital, \$10,000; surplus, \$5,000; deposits, \$51,000; loans, \$50,000. Correspondent, National Bank of the Republic, Chicago.

Calumet.

Bank of Calumet—No. 1231; established 1885; president, L. Reifsteck; cashier, George Reifsteck; assistant cashier, C. F. Reifsteck; capital, \$10,000. Correspondent, National Bank of the Republic, Chicago.

Paullina.

Bank of Paullina—No. 745; established 1883; president, J. V. Adkins; vice-president, W. C. Metcalf; cashier, George Raw; assistant cashier, H. C. Lage; capital, \$50,000; surplus, \$100,000; deposits, \$390,000; loans, \$427,000. Correspondents, First National Bank, Chicago; Security National Bank, Sioux City; Merchants National Bank, Cedar Rapids.

Farmers State Bank—No. 746; established 1886; president, J. F. Toy; vice-president, William Cain; cashier, George W. Harris; assistant cashier, A. H. Myer; capital, \$25,000; surplus, \$13,000; deposits, \$236,000; loans, \$215,000. Correspondents, First National Banks, Chicago and Sioux City; Cedar Rapids National Bank, Cedar Rapids.

Sutherland.

First Savings Bank—No. 829; established 1883; president, S. J. Jordan; vice-president, Ralph C. Jordan; cashier, C. P. Jordan; assistant cashier, E. C. Briggs; capital, \$25,000; surplus, \$7,200; deposits, \$160,000; loans, \$158,000. Correspondents, Hanover National Bank, New York; Continental Commercial National Bank, Chicago; Security National Bank, Sioux City.

Sutherland State Bank—No. 830; established 1886; president, W. P. Davis; vice-president, A. J. Sieh; cashier, T. B. Bark; assistant cashier, H. N. McMaster; capital, \$40,000; surplus, \$3,000; deposits, \$245,000; loans, \$240,000. Correspondents, Continental Commercial National Bank, Chicago; First National Bank, Sioux City; Iowa National Bank, Des Moines.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE COURTS.

There have been two courts of record in Iowa. The district court, having general jurisdiction of civil and criminal matters, existed prior to the organization of the county. In 1868 the circuit court, having exclusive jurisdiction in probate matters and concurrent jurisdiction with the district court in civil matters, was established. The circuit court was abolished in 1886.

The district court had exclusive jurisdiction in criminal cases. Since 1886 the district court has had exclusive jurisdiction of all court matters, including civil, criminal and probate cases.

At the organization of the county it belonged to the fourth judicial district, which was then composed of twenty-two counties in northwestern Iowa. Later it was contracted to include Lyon, Osecola, Sioux, O'Brien, Cherokee, Plymouth, Woodbury, Monona and Harrison counties. In 1886 Harrison county was set off into the Council Bluffs district. The remaining counties composed the district until March, 1913, when the six northern counties were set off to constitute a new district—the twenty-first—leaving Monona and Woodbury composing the fourth judicial district. Judges Boies and Hutchinson are sole judges of the new twenty-first district.

Following is the schedule of district judges who have held office since organization of the county: Asahel W. Hubbard, Woodbury county, 1860-62; Isaac Pendleton, Woodbury county, 1863-66; Henry Ford, Harrison county, 1867-74; Charles H. Lewis, Cherokee county, 1875-1890; Scott M. Ladd, O'Brien county, 1887-96; George W. Wakefield, Woodbury county, 1887-1905; Frank R. Gaynor, Plymouth county, 1891-13; Anthony Van Wagenen, Lyon county, 1892-94; John F. Oliver, Monona county, 1895; William Hutchinson, Sioux county, 1897; J. L. Kennedy, Woodbury county, 1905-06; David Mould, Woodbury county, 1906; William D. Boies, O'Brien county, 1913.

Asahel W. Hubbard held the first term of court in this county, and on March 23, 1861, issued an order fixing the first term to be held June 3, 1861, "to continue in session two days if the business required it." No record of any such term being made in the court minutes, it is safe to say that business

did not require it and the term was not held. April 24, 1862, a similar order issued fixing the term to begin June 9, 1862, and continue for the same length of time. This term was held according to the order and was of course held at the first county seat, Old O'Brien. The court officials were H. C. Tiffey, clerk, and G. Hoffman, sheriff. Henry Gollickson, Knude Stennerson and Christian Johnson, formerly citizens of Norway, presented themselves for naturalization and upon taking the oath of allegiance and fidelity to their adopted country, were granted certificates recognizing them as full-fledged American citizens and entitled to vote as such. In those days citizens were sorely needed and courts, being less strictly limited by law and watched by federal inspectors, were very lenient in granting letters. A comparatively slight examination was required as to their qualifications.

On the afternoon of June 10, 1862, the second day of the term, judgment was entered by default against defendant in the suit of Kellogg and Kirby versus Adolph Wehrmann, for the sum of four hundred and forty-nine dollars. Greeley Gale & Company secured a decree against F. Wehrmann et al., setting aside a deed that had been executed by Adolph and Augusta Wehrmann in favor of F. Wehrmann, conveying two thousand one hundred and sixty acres of land in what is now known as Omega, Lincoln and Summit townships, and establishing the lien of a certain judgment against the lands. The records were then read, approved, and signed by the trial judge and court adjourned.

Judge Hubbard served as a member of Congress from this district after the end of his judicial career, his congressional experience extending from 1863 to 1869, inclusive. He was a prominent and distinguished pioneer citizen of and identified with the beginnings of Sioux City. He built the first hotel and organized the first railroad company in that vicinity. His son, Elbert H. Hubbard, who finally succeeded him in Congress, was well and favorably known to the later generation in this district.

Following this term there seems to have been a hiatus in judicial practice in the limits of the county. Settlers were few and far between; business, on account of war, was more or less depressed even in well populated centers, and not a line of record appears during a period of over seven years, except the occasional filing of a transcript of judgment from other counties to this county.

Isaac Pendleton, a judge in this district, never held a term of court here, so far as the record shows. He was born in 1833, located in Sioux City in 1858 and resided there till his death, July 17, 1896. He was elected

to office in 1862 as a Republican, but afterwards became a Democrat. Brilliant in his literary attainments and learned in his profession, eloquent and possessing a wide knowledge of the common affairs of life, he was an able and powerful advocate of any cause he espoused, and was for many years the leading advocate in northwestern Iowa. He may better be said to be the founder and father of the Republican party in northwestern Iowa than any other man. He was a member of the ninth General Assembly, a presidential elector in the second Grant campaign and held many other places of trust and honor. He was a noble man, of brilliant mind, of great power, and of the kindest sympathies; noble in ambition and aspiration and noble in his dealings with his fellow man.

Henry Ford, who had removed from Keosauqua, Iowa, to Magnolia, Harrison county, in May, 1860, served one term as district attorney and three terms as district judge, 1867-1874. Judge Ford's first term in the county was held in November, 1870. The commencement of the term had been assigned for the second day of the month, but, on account of delay in arrival of the judge, it was not actually held until the 26th. The first foreclosure of a mortgage noted in the county court records was entered November 26, 1870, when Webb Vincent, a Fort Dodge baker, secured judgment against R. B. Crego and wife, foreclosing a mortgage amounting to four hundred and fifty-nine dollars and costs against the northeast quarter of section 36 in Waterman township. August 25, 1871, James and John Shoup secured judgment against C. W. Inman and R. B. Crego and wife, foreclosing a mortgage against lots 10, 11, 20 and 21 in town of O'Brien and also the north half of the northwest quarter of section 36, Waterman township. At the same term John L. Nicodemus secured a similar decree against Crego's interest in two hundred acres on the same section for an indebtedness aggregating one thousand dollars. On this same date Webb Vincent secured the first judgment ever entered against the county in the local court. It was for the sum of two thousand five hundred and three dollars. A. N. Bostford, of Fort Dodge, was attorney for the plaintiff and Eugene Cowles, of Cherokee, appeared for the county. This case was contested. The judgment was afterward satisfied in full.

Among the early attorneys mentioned in the court records are Wilson & Dry, I. M. Pemberton, Orson Rice and George F. Haswell. In June, 1872, the Iowa Falls & Sioux City Railroad Company brought an action against the county treasurer and secured an injunction restraining enforcement of taxes prior to the year 1872 against lands in this county, which at that time

consisted of many thousands of acres. The railroad company took the position that although they were beneficiaries under a land grant made by Congress to the state of Iowa, that they had not received a conveyance of the land from the state until July 3, 1871, and the lands could not be properly taxed prior to the year 1872. Hon. N. M. Hubbard, of Cedar Rapids, who had served as district judge in 1865-66 and later was prominently identified with the legal and political life of the state, was one of the attorneys for plaintiff in this action and, illustrative of the drudgery and labor connected with the practice of law in that time, one has but to read the manifold pages of an extremely long petition all prepared by Judge Hubbard in his own handwriting. Compared with the modern attorney, dictating his pleading to a stenographer, we can see that there certainly has been considerable advancement in the details of legal practice. Isaac Cook, another ex-judge of the district court, was also associated with Judge Hubbard in this suit. Later G. S. Robinson, of Storm Lake, and Joy & Wright appeared for plaintiff. The county was represented by Eugene Cowles, Barrett & Allen and D. A. W. Perkins. The litigation finally terminated in favor of the railroad company, it being held exempt from taxation of its lands prior to 1872.

The first mention of a grand jury in the county is December 1, 1871, when Judge Ford presided and C. H. Lewis, who afterwards became district judge, was acting as district attorney. As such he was the prosecutor for the state in all criminal actions. The district attorney found a defect in the method that had been employed to select a grand jury and on his motion the venire was set aside and a new panel of grand jurors drawn from a new venire. The fifteen so drawn were Adam Towberman, L. C. Washburn, Horace Gilbert, P. A. Hurlburt, W. A. Acer, John Wood, Robert E. Wood, Ed. Parker, Gus Baker, S. G. Sutter, Harley Day, William Welch, John Brock, Miles Allen and Henry Smith. This grand jury found no business for their consideration and were discharged.

April 12, 1872, Perkins Brothers Company secured judgment against the county for the sum of two hundred dollars, but this was, of course, soon afterwards paid.

The June, 1872, term of district court was conducted with the following officers: Henry Ford, judge; C. H. Lewis, district attorney; Stephen Harris, clerk; A. H. Willits, deputy clerk, and Ed. A. Nissen, sheriff.

The first fine imposed in the district court in a criminal case was upon a plea of guilty. Henry Shultz confessed to an unlawful sale of intoxicating liquor and was fined twenty dollars, a portion of the costs being taxed against the county.

In 1874 attorneys were admitted to practice in the courts of the state upon their application made to the district court. A committee of the bar was appointed to examine the applicant and if he was found qualified or otherwise proved himself a good fellow he was generally found proficient and recommended for admission. This method was found very easy to the aspiring sprig of the law, and the applicant today, when he considers the three years study under guidance of competent instructors and an exhaustive examination before the supreme court, now required, reads with longing eyes of the good old days of easy admission. As an illustration of the laxity shown, we find the following proceedings in the matter of application of Warren Walker for admission to the bar, filed in district court, this county, in April, 1874. The court appointed Charley Allen, Eugene Cowles and G. S. Robinson as a committee. The latter was a practicing attorney at Storm Lake, and afterwards judge of the supreme court and member of the state board of control. The report is as follows:

"The committee heretofore appointed to examine and report upon the qualification of Warren Walker to practice law as an attorney and counselor in the courts of said state ask to submit the following as their report: The committee find applicant to be a person of good moral character and that applicant has some knowledge of the statutory laws and practice of said state, acquired by reading works upon pleading and practice and by actual practice in justices' courts. That applicant has never read any elementary work or commentary upon the spirit and principles of common law. That applicant declares his intention to procure and read such works as soon as possible.

"In view of the good moral character of applicant, the practical knowledge of the statutory law already acquired by him, and his avowed purpose of pursuing an extensive course of reading of standard works upon the elements and principles of law, the committee recommends that the applicant be licensed to practice as an attorney and counselor in the courts of the state of Iowa.

"17th day of April, A. D. 1874.

"By order of the Committee,

"CHARLEY ALLEN, Chairman."

The first jury case tried was in April, 1874, in Ransom Bartle vs. William Lyle. D. A. W. Perkins was attorney for plaintiff and John Connell for defendant. The jury found for plaintiff and assessed the amount to be recovered at sixty-nine dollars and costs.

The circuit court extending, as has been said, in this state from 1868 to 1886, was presided over in this county by but four judges, Addison Oliver, John R. Zuver, Daniel D. McCallum and George W. Wakefield.

Addison Oliver, born in 1833, was an early settler of Monona county and has often been honored with the confidence of the people in election to office. In 1863 he served in the state Legislature as representative, and in 1865 served in the state Senate. He held office as circuit judge from 1868 to 1873, inclusive, at which later date he was elected to Congress and served in that capacity for four years from this congressional district. He was a man of strong individuality, honest, industrious, talented and of strong will power. He was public spirited, giving to his home town of Onawa a public library and manual training school. His life work is studded with many instances of his benevolences and kindnesses. He was a good fighter, strong in his likes and dislikes and ever ready to defend his opinions and his just rights. Judge Oliver was in charge of court in the first circuit only of this district, which included Woodbury, Plymouth, Ida, Cherokee, O'Brien, Monona, Harrison and Shelby counties.

The first term in this county began November 25, 1869. But one case was disposed of at that term, an entry of default in the suit of Loren Inman vs. Chester W. Inman. Judge Oliver believed in expediting business of trial work and at the second term he held in the county he promulgated the following rules of practice:

"First. The defendant shall demur or answer, or do both as to the original petition before the morning of the second day of the term and as to an amended petition by the convening of court at its next session after the same is filed.

"Second. The plaintiff shall demur or reply or do both as to the original answer by noon of the second day of the term and to an amended or supplemental answer, or answer after notice, or demurrer, by the convening of court at its next session after the same is filed.

"Third. The defendant shall demur as to the reply by the convening of court at its next session after the same is filed."

A proceeding in the probate court of Clinton county, Iowa, transcribed to this county at this time, shows that H. F. Parker, J. R. Pumphrey and R. B. Crego were appointed to fix the value of one hundred and twenty acres of land on north half of section 31, in what is now Summit township, in the matter of estate of Jacob Whistler, deceased. They valued the land at one thousand one hundred and twenty dollars. Publication of the notice of sale was made in the *Sioux City Journal* and the land was sold to the attorney for the estate for three hundred dollars.

The first contested legal action in the circuit court is shown to have been that of Tallmage E. Brown vs. Rouse B. Crego, as treasurer of the county. The files in the action are missing from the clerk's office, but it is indicated that the action was an attempt to mandamus the county officials. A demurrer to the petition was sustained, the court finding that he had no jurisdiction. Same entry was made in case of Eugene Childs against same defendant.

February 10, 1871, Judge Addison Oliver gives a side light on the sparsely settled condition of the county when he orders:

"It appearing that there is no practicing physician or lawyer in the county of O'Brien it is ordered that Dr. Butler and C. H. Lewis, Esq., of Cherokee county, Iowa, be and they are hereby appointed as commissioners of insanity protempore."

One wonders at the need of such a commission at that time when the population was so small, but the need must have been great, for the court entered another order July 4, 1871, appointing L. E. Head and B. F. McCormack as members of the insane commission in place of the Cherokee county residents.

Judge Addison Oliver resigned his office in 1874, when he was elected to Congress and J. R. Zuver was appointed to succeed him. He was afterward elected to the office, but did not hold court regularly on account of declining health. Under the arrangement two terms of circuit court and two terms of district court were held each year, the different courts alternating.

Judge Zuver's early opportunities for education were limited, and not well calculated to fit him for the bar. His life struggles commenced as a deck hand on a tug boat on the Ohio river and he finally became captain of the boat. Coming to Iowa in the sixties, he settled in Harrison county and was admitted to the bar in 1868. He was rather austere and a man of many peculiarities. Of strong convictions, he would not swerve from what he thought was the right. He possessed a good legal mind, but was better adapted for the service at the bar than on the bench. Frequently hasty and captious and zealous in the insistence of his views, he often gave offense by the earnestness with which he expressed his opinions. At one time he secured the disbarment of an attorney who had offended him, but the supreme court reversed the action. The case is reported in 45 Iowa Supreme Court Reports, page 155. A Sioux City lawyer who came under the ban of his displeasure was confined in jail as punishment for a contempt of court, until he was released by Judge Lewis on a writ of habeas corpus. Becoming physically disabled through a fall that resulted in an injury to his head, he was

unable to hold court, but continued in office for practically the last three years of his term without holding court. In 1890 he removed from Sioux City to Boulder, Colorado, where he died November 7, 1896.

Daniel D. McCallum, elected circuit judge in 1884, ended his service when the court was abolished by the Legislature, in January, 1886. Judge McCallum lived at Sibley, in Osceola county, was a man of pleasing personality and well liked by the bar. At the conclusion of his term he thought that, having been elected by the people to fill the office for a full term, the Legislature could not sooner end the term by abolishing his court. The matter was tested in court, but resulted adversely to Judge McCallum and other circuit judges who had been legislated out of office. Judge McCallum died of cancer of the face in 1895.

George W. Wakefield, serving as circuit judge 1885-1886, did not hold court in this county during those years and will be spoken of later.

Charles H. Lewis was born in Erie county, New York, in 1839, and died September 26, 1904. He served with distinction in an Iowa regiment in the Civil War and engaged in the practice of law at Cherokee in an early day. From 1871 to 1875 he ably served as district attorney of this judicial district. In the fall of 1874 he was elected district judge and held the office until January 1, 1887. Craig L. Wright once wrote of him: "Personally he was the most lovable man to those whom he knew well. His character was one of the purest and mere contact with him left a marked impress. I have always had the highest regard for him as a lawyer and a judge. Before the bar he was stronger in consultation than as an advocate and was one of the most learned men who ever practiced in this state."

George W. Wakefield, born in 1839, died in Sioux City March 10, 1905. He served in an Illinois regiment in the Civil War, was wounded at Jackson, Mississippi, and entered the practice of law at an early day in Sioux City. After his two years' service as circuit judge, he began his term as district judge January 1, 1887, which service continued until his death. In early life he became owner of some real estate in this county, which he held till shortly before his death. He was kindly by nature, methodical in his habits and well versed in the law. He had a high order of ability in logical analysis and marked impartiality in his judicial methods and decisions. Besides his interest in law, he was foremost in a number of scholarly and public activities that indicated his breadth of mind and wide range of interests and studies. He was a forceful personality, not because of any aggressive disposition, but rather because of his modest and genial temperament, combined

with distinguished ability that compelled general dependence on his judgment and confidence in his sincerity.

Judge Ladd has been referred to in the chapter on the Bar. He was a good politician because he conducted his office with industry, ability, integrity and honesty. His service on the bench did not repress his sense of humor, however, and frequently we hear stories from the older members of the bar as to his wit. At one time he had taken an equity case under advisement and when some time had elapsed with no decision, litigants and attorneys became anxious. As a smooth way of suggesting to the court that it was time to decide the case, the attorneys, after conference with each other, prepared and filed a motion asking that the court issue an order to require the judge to render his decision. The clerk was delegated to hand the motion to the judge and he slipped it upon his desk and promptly withdrew. Judge Ladd read it to the end, but soon afterwards placed on file his reply as follows:

"Come now the judge before whom this cause was tried and submitted and begs to submit the following:

"He admits that decision in said cause has not been rendered, but as reason therefor states: That there have been employed as attorneys in said cause members of the bar who have so artfully twisted and concealed the facts and law that decision of said case on its merits is impossible. Wherefore this judge prays that he may go hence in peace."

The attorneys accepted the joke and were soon afterwards respectively pleased and disappointed to hear from the judge with his decision.

Anthony Van Wagenen, appointed by Governor Boies in 1892 to fill vacancy created by addition of another judge in this district, had been in the practice at Rock Rapids in Lyon county. He made a good judge, but was ill during a portion of his term, that precluded his holding all terms of court regularly. He afterwards entered the practice at Sioux City and has been prominent in Democratic councils and politics. He is a fluent speaker and talented in debate.

Frank R. Gaynor, elected to the district bench as a Democrat in 1891, later became a Republican, largely turning upon the money question,—gold versus silver,—that was an issue between the parties. Judge Gaynor resided at LeMars and was a highly qualified lawyer, a thorough gentleman, kindly considerate of all. He brought to his office a grace and dignity that charmed the bar, litigants and court officials. His record in the appeals of cases to the supreme court has been exceptionally good and he has long been con-

sidered one of the strong judges of the state. In 1912 he was elected to the supreme bench and began his office there with the year 1913.

John F. Oliver, elected first in the fall of 1894, has continuously served as district judge to the present time, although his work has not brought him into this county since we were set out of the fourth district in March, 1913. He is a son of Addison Oliver, the pioneer circuit judge of this district, and partakes of the strong qualities of his father. He is highly qualified as a lawyer, well read and with a mind well fitted to study and digest the law and come to the right conclusion. Absolutely honest in his decisions, his natural sense of right and wrong has sometimes caused him to assist the litigant whose case may not be quite properly presented, in getting the entire evidence before the court and jury and thus he has at times antagonized some of the attorneys. His continued service on the bench shows the high opinion of him held by the voters and he has proven an acceptable judge.

William Hutchinson, of Sioux county, elected to the bench in 1896, is one of the most popular judges. Of good legal training, a keen knowledge of human nature, a polished and convincing speaker, he has shown marked ability in rightly deciding the equities of matters presented to him for decision. Prior to his elevation to the bench he had long served as a successful practitioner, including service as county attorney of Sioux county. He possesses a clean Christian character and is verily beloved by even the litigant whom he smiteth.

J. L. Kennedy, appointed to the judgeship to fill vacancy in 1905, served till the end of his term, but was not a candidate for election. He was an exceptionally good lawyer and successful in his practice and found the sacrifice in income too great to longer continue in office.

David Mould, successor to Judge Wakefield, resides in Sioux City. He is of the same quiet temperament as Judge Wakefield, a good lawyer and a righteous judge.

Judge Boies, the youngest judge in point of service, has been discussed in another chapter. His friends are pleased to note that he is giving universal satisfaction as a judge, bringing to the office not only the ability but the industry that results in quick trials, quick decisions and no business delayed.

Within the limits of this chapter it will be possible to give but fragmentary statements in regard to a few of court officials.

Ed. Nissen was sheriff from 1872 to 1877, inclusive. He was a drinking man and an indifferent officer. In his final campaign for office in 1877 he

canvassed the county and urged upon the voters, who had been sorely pressed by creditors during their days of poverty that followed the grasshoppers and crop failures, that he would be drunk most of the time and they could not expect him to hurt them much in the way of serving process. Mart Shea, opposing him, announced that while he would serve all papers handed him he would serve nothing unless fees were paid in advance, and would not, as Nissen had done, extend credit to persons desiring the papers served. The people believed in Shea and elected him and, sure enough, when he demanded fees in advance, litigation fell off and many creditors refused to sue when they had to pay in advance. Shea held office for four years and was followed by W. C. Green, or, as he was familiarly known, "Clark" Green. The latter had been a settler from the early day, closely identified with the business life of the county, a merchant, and owner of half the town plat of Primghar. Green held the office eight years and was an exceptionally good and capable officer. During his term of office there was commenced that sea of litigation over the railroad lands in the county that not only kept the sheriff busy, but helped his finances as well. In one day the Western Land Company, purchaser of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway lands, filed one hundred and fifteen suits in ejectment and the sheriff and his deputies handled the notices in all these cases. At another time over fifty similar cases were filed in one day. Green was a Democrat and his popularity was shown in his repeated election in a county that normally was strongly Republican.

W. H. Noyes, who followed Clark Green as sheriff, had previously held office as county recorder and made a good official. He was of a kind-hearted and liberal disposition, careless in acquiring money, but ever ready to do another a kindness, even at the sacrifice of his own pocketbook. In his office as sheriff he was always ready to do his duty, but at the same time strove to make the service as pleasant as possible to the defendant. He was followed by S. A. Carter, O. F. Morgan, George Coleman, Theodore Price, J. G. Geister and H. W. Geister, who have all ably filled the office.

One of the popular clerks of courts in the history of the county was Frank A. Turner. An expert penman, a first class office man, with a genial smile, obliging temperament and a desire to work, he was the favorite among attorneys. He possessed a thorough legal knowledge and was able to assist many an attorney in a perplexing question of practice. His kind-heartedness was proverbial and while he did not leave the office with much of this world's goods to his credit, he left it with the high regard and affection of

every court official. Indicative of this was the beautiful diamond watch charm presented to him by the members of the bar at the last term of court which he attended. The method of presentation was novel. Turner had been served with a subpoena in regular form requiring his attendance before court as a witness and without knowing just what case it was, but thinking it was one of the many matters wherein he was frequently called to testify, he was made to take the oath of a witness and then required to testify as to his length of service of clerk and asked to give his opinion as to his quality of service rendered to the public. This line of questioning was followed by a neat presentation speech by W. D. Boies, in which the questions unanswered by Turner were explained to him and it was with tears in his eyes that he accepted the emblem of love and appreciation, and attempted to express his thanks.

W. S. Armstrong, clerk for 1893 to 1896, inclusive, made a good record in his office. He was well qualified for the position and possessed in connection with his ability an affability and delightful personality that made him many friends. S. A. Martin, E. R. Wood, H. C. May and W. J. E. Thatcher have all made good clerks. Mr. Thatcher, from his legal knowledge, has always had a high sense of his duty and has especially been diligent in keeping up the work of his office, regularly checking bonds in probate matters and requiring filing of reports and schedules that have been omitted by representatives of estates and persons under disability. His administration has greatly expedited the settlement of estates and completion of court business.

OFFICE OF SHERIFF.

* The following is a list of the sheriffs of O'Brien county, with their terms of office in calendar years unless otherwise stated: L. McClellan, from February 6, 1860, to January 1, 1861; Archibald Murray, 1861; George Hoffman, 1862-1865; Charles M. Stevenson, 1866-1867; Chancy Chesley, 1868; S. B. Hurlburt, 1869-1870; George A. McOmber, 1871; Ed. A. Nissen, 1872-1877; Mart Shea, 1878-1881; W. C. Green, 1882-1889; W. H. Noyes, 1890-1893; S. A. Carter, 1894-1897; George Coleman, 1898-1901; Oscar F. Morgan from January 1, 1902, to January 20, 1902 (died January 20, 1902). After Mr. Morgan's death Dr. F. E. Brown, coroner, acted as ex-officio sheriff for ten days pending the appointment of George Coleman, who acted under appointment for the balance of the term; Theodore Price, 1903-1907; Joseph G. Geister, 1907-1910; Henry W. Geister, 1911-1914.

CLERK OF COURTS.

Relating to the office of clerk of courts, it is difficult from the records up to January 1, 1871, at all times to determine either who was elected, who qualified or who in fact was clerk. At the first election, February 6, 1860, it is definite that Archibald Murray was elected and that Henry C. Tiffey was elected for the term beginning January 1, 1863, and served until January 1, 1866, though in one place it would appear that John Moore acted as such at a time in 1865, though that might be explained in that he might have acted as deputy. John Moore was, however, elected for the term beginning January 1, 1867, and he later resigned and Archibald Murray was appointed in his place, though both the resignation and appointment are undated, though probably in 1868. At the regular election held November 9, 1868, Hannibal H. Waterman was declared elected, but evidently did not qualify, as the record again shows another appointment of John Moore March 13, 1869. It also appears that John Stratton acted in 1868, but by what process he got there the record does not disclose. However there was but little work for a clerk of courts to do, other than to draw the salary, until the settlers arrived in 1870. The first real clerk of the courts was Stephen Harris, who was elected and assumed the office January 1, 1871.

The following is a list of clerks of courts since said date, each assuming his duties on January 1st of the year named: Stephen Harris, 1871-72; A. H. Willits, 1873-1878; Frank N. Derby, 1879-80; W. N. Strong, 1881-82; Frank A. Turner, 1883-88; John W. Walter, 1889-92; William S. Armstrong, 1893-96; Scott A. Martin, 1897-1900; Ed. R. Wood assumed the office January 1, 1901. His health failing and later resulting in his death, John F. Boyer was, in May, 1903, appointed clerk to fill the vacancy, first caused by his sickness and inability to act and later death. Mr. Boyer served until November election for 1904, when William H. Downing was elected for the vacancy and served six weeks; Harry C. May, 1905-1908; W. J. E. Thatcher, 1909-1914.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE O'BRIEN COUNTY BAR.

Popular comment is ever ready to portray the result of a lawsuit as enriching the lawyer. Even a lawyer has been known to speak of his successful cases and the rich fees he earns. But while he is continuously reaping, the lawyer never seems to accumulate wealth. I think it was Webster who said that the lawyer's life was that of one who worked hard, lived well and died poor. D. A. W. Perkins once wrote: "Life is a battle, with each to wage his own individual warfare, and when one takes upon himself the burden, and advertises to fight the battles of other people, along with his own, he enters upon an arena of some grief, and much responsibility and without sufficient compensation." Some of the lawyers of the county have grown rich, but not one can trace his entire wealth to the legitimate practice of law. An investment in land has helped many, and others have won riches in other lines. The glamour and excitement of striving to win, the hope of victory, and satisfaction of pleasing a client and proving correctness of opinion, have spurred many an attorney and kept him in the practice just for pure love of the game, when he has perhaps realized that his talents would be better rewarded in another line of action. The vocation of a lawyer is an official position, not a business. An officer of the court, he is charged with specific duties and responsibilities. More than any other licensed professional man, the lawyer must not only have a license to practice, but he must qualify as an officer of the government, swearing to faithfully perform the duties of his high office, maintain the respect due the courts, to encourage and maintain only just actions, use only such means as are consistent with truth, and never reject for any consideration personal to himself the cause of the defenseless and oppressed.

No one, considering the records of the country lawyer, as written in the pages of O'Brien county history, can receive any encouragement to believe that the lawyer's life leads to financial gain. Most of the lawyers were poor in the wealth of the realm, but the industrious and honest receive the just

rewards of a good name and the kindly esteem of their neighbors. If there have been any lawyers in the county who have not lived the righteous life, who have strayed from the path of duty and not lived up to the high ideals of the legal profession, may charity permit us to leave the ugly record out of these pages.

It is with some trepidation that the associate editor of this work has consented to write the history of the lawyers—many of them his contemporaries—and risk the charge of unfair criticism. Those that are dead and gone have left their record and we shall try to truthfully portray their work as viewed from the present day. Those that are yet among us have a future before them; they may brighten or blacken the present prospect. We shall try to restrict our discussion of merits and demerits more to the past generation than the present, but do justice to all. The lawyers have all left their impress on the history of the county, some for good, and some for ill. Frequently leaders in their community, the nature of the practice necessarily connects them closely with many of the industries and public and private business of the community.

The earliest record of a lawyer in the county is the appearance of J. W. Bosler in 1860. As he was not exactly in the practice of his profession in this county and had no office, and solicited no business here, further reference may well be left to him in another portion of the work, where he receives proper classification.

B. F. McCormack, who came in 1871, was the first settler of the county to practice the legal profession here. The law, however, is said to be "a jealous mistress" and Brother McCormack's varied experiences in business lines somewhat unfitted him for successful legal practice. We hear of him as an editor, hardware dealer, member of board of supervisors and engaged in other activities.

D. A. W. Perkins was born in 1840, admitted to the bar in 1865, settled in Sheldon with the coming of the railroad in 1872. He was a unique character, highly talented and educated, but never gave proof of that industry and energy that put others to the front. In 1873 he was elected superintendent of the schools of the county. In 1874 he was editing a newspaper in Sheldon. For a number of years he successfully, as an adjunct to his profession and in connection with his law practice, conducted a series of lectures through various towns in northwestern Iowa and southwestern Minnesota. A man of fine literary tastes, liberal culture and pleasant social ways, he was an eloquent speaker and gave good satisfaction to his audiences. His lectures were a

rare literary treat to the early settlers. In September, 1879, we find him editing a newspaper at Sibley, but later he abandoned that and returned to practice of law. In the nineties, returning to Sheldon from a few years' absence in South Dakota, he entered politics, and in 1895 and 1896 he held the office of county attorney, elected thereto by the people. In 1897 he bequeathed to posterity a monumental work, giving the benefit of his intimate knowledge of the history of the county to the public in a volume replete with historical sketches and records of the life of the county and its inhabitants. Never industrious in the practice of his profession, yet he tried his cases in an artful, masterful way, persuasive in his arguments to the jury, and generally successful in his suits. He never possessed the ability nor inclination to stir up business or "go after it," and was content to well try the cases that came to his office. He possessed a quaint humor and the members of the bar enjoy telling of many examples of his quick wit. In 1879 a client at Sibley wrote him and enclosed him a promissory note for collection, suggesting that if he could find the debtor, he wished the attorney would "stir him up a little." To this Perkins replied:

"I can find him. I was an eye witness to his burial in our cemetery in the spring of 1874. It would be better, perhaps, not to stir him. If you insist upon it, however, I would prefer that you do it yourself.

"Yours,

"D. A. W. PERKINS."

Mr. Perkins is now county judge at Highmore, South Dakota.

Dewitt C. Hayes arrived at Pringhar with the location of the new county seat in 1872. He brought into the county the first good law library. His habits were such that his business was somewhat neglected and he soon drifted away.

Warren Walker, a settler in the county in 1871, located on a homestead in Baker township, was admitted to the bar in 1874 and during that year served his first term as county supervisor, which office held until the end of 1876. He had thrice enlisted in the War of the Rebellion, and served from 1861 to 1865 inclusive in Illinois regiments. He bears a fine record for bravery in his army service, and was actively engaged in many battles, being seven times wounded. With the starting of the new town of Sanborn, Walker moved there and at one time operated offices at Sanborn, Sheldon and Pringhar, having them connected with telephone, and conducting a

general land, abstract and law business and later publishing a newspaper. In 1895 he removed to Des Moines, where he died. Walker was an indefatigable worker, of great personal bravery, and an intense fighter in his business and legal enterprises.

Orsmond M. Barrett, at one time the leading lawyer of Sheldon, was born in 1837, served in the Civil War as a Union soldier, and settled in the practice of his profession at Sheldon in 1875. He was at various times associated with Charley Allen, Alfred Morton, C. H. Bullis and S. A. Callvert, his name always heading the firm. He was a representative in the nineteenth General Assembly, and senator in the twentieth, twenty-first, twenty-second and twenty-third General Assemblies of Iowa. In his later years he removed to California, residing at National City, where he died March 1, 1899.

John T. Stearns, born in 1841, was admitted to practice in Franklin county, Iowa, and came to Primghar in 1875, where he was interested in real estate ventures in connection with his legal practice. For many years he resided at Chamberlain, South Dakota, where he was actively engaged in law and land business until 1895, when he returned to O'Brien county and actively engaged in the practice of law. He made a specialty of land title litigation and was for many years associated with other attorneys in the conduct of litigation in behalf of settlers on the litigated railroad lands of the county. This litigation was generally successful, as most of his clients had secured and remained in possession of the lands, but the contest was long and arduous and J. T. Stearns' ability led in no small degree to the success of that series of legal battles. He died March 14, 1907, without an enemy in the county.

Charles Allen, familiarly known as "Charley," was born in 1835, admitted to practice in 1868, and came to the county in 1875 and associated himself at Sheldon with O. M. Barrett in the practice of law, the firm being known as Barrett & Allen. In 1879 we find him at Primghar temporarily engaged in the drug business, but he soon returned to his profession and was a successful practitioner in the county until 1881. Later he was a practicing attorney at Lander, Wyoming, where he died in 1911. He was a good lawyer, absolutely honest in money matters, and a man of varied talents, being at one time leader of the band.

J. L. E. Peck engaged in the practice of law at Primghar in 1877 and, with but a short interruption, during the time his daughters were receiving

their college education, he has been continuously in the practice of his profession at the same town. He was auditor of the county from 1880 to 1883 inclusive, giving his ability to the adjustment and settlement of the involved and important financial question that was before the supervisors in the troublous times of refunding the county debt in 1881. Mr. Peck is an industrious lawyer, joyously revelling in the drudgery of digging and digesting, and preparing his lawsuits, and there are no details too small to receive his earnest attention. He has been successful in his business life, has always maintained a fine home at Pringhar, building and rebuilding with the growing town, taking an active part in the progress of his little city, freely giving of his time, talents and money to every public enterprise and from his industry, always an important factor in every movement that tends to the betterment of the town. He served as referee in bankruptcy for this county, 1898 to 1903 inclusive.

I. W. Daggett, an early resident of Pringhar, engaged in the banking business there as early as 1875, was later a practicing attorney. During the eighties he was engaged in the mercantile business at Sanborn and later removed to Sioux City.

Harley Day, a homesteader in the county in 1871, county supervisor in 1873-4, served as county superintendent of schools from 1878 to 1881 inclusive. He was admitted to the bar during the first year of his office as superintendent. Beginning his professional life at Pringhar, he was later a resident of Sanborn, where he was a member of the firm of Stocum & Day. He was a soldier in the Union army in the War of the Rebellion. He died at Minot, North Dakota February 7, 1903.

J. F. Glover, erstwhile editor at Sheldon in 1874 and 1875, was admitted to the bar in 1878, but immediately removed to Sibley, where he now resides.

George L. McKay, a justice of the peace in Sheldon in 1878, was then admitted to practice and removed to Sioux county.

Cal Bradstreet came to Sanborn with the organization of the town in 1878 and successfully practiced law there a dozen or more years, finally removing to Sioux City, where he is still engaged in the practice.

John Connell, of Sioux county, was an early practitioner who tried many cases in Sheldon and in this county.

S. C. Nash, a graduate of the law department of the State University of Iowa, a good lawyer, was in the practice at Sheldon in 1878. His brother, F. H. Nash, was also admitted to the bar in 1879 and practiced at Sheldon.

In 1879 there came to Sheldon one of the kindest, courtliest members of the profession who has ever graced the court room of the county. Alfred Morton had served in the One Hundred and Ninety-third New York Infantry, with rank as major, and later received commission of brevet lieutenant-colonel. Early in the reconstruction period after the war, General Grant appointed him a circuit judge in Virginia. He lived at Richmond and held this office two years. For a short time he was a member of the firm of Barrett & Morton, but later practiced alone. For many years he represented the Illinois Central Railroad Company as its attorney and actively attended to the legal business of the Cherokee & Dakota Railroad Company when that road was built into the county in 1887. He died April 19, 1896, while in active practice of his profession. A man of natural politeness, with a touch of Southern chivalry in his nature, he was beloved by all. In all the intensity of a legal contest he was one member who always remained considerate of the rights of the opponent and was pleasant, respectful and just in the treatment of his competitor.

Milt H. Allen, son of Charley Allen, was admitted to the practice in 1879. First settling at Pattersonville, now Hull, in Sioux county, for a short time, he was at Primghar, then Sanborn and later Sheldon. A man of unusual talents, fluent of speech, a bright legal mind, and largely a self-made man, Milt Allen was one of the best trial lawyers ever practicing in the county. He removed from the county several years ago and engaged in the practice of his profession in Chicago.

Peter R. Bailey had served in the Civil War as a Union soldier. He came to Sheldon in 1880 and was engaged for some time as a temperance lecturer, addressing audiences generally over northwestern Iowa. In the same year he was admitted to the bar, practicing at Sheldon until 189c, when he sold his practice and removed to Huntsville, Alabama. Bailey was a man of strong Northern sentiments, freely speaking them wherever he was, and he did not readily assimilate with his new surroundings and met with many and varied difficulties in adjusting his views to the community in which he had located. After a turbulent experience he finally returned to the county, engaging in the practice at Primghar. While here he wrote and published an interesting volume entitled "Old Shady." The book dealt with the experiences of a Northern man, or, as he put it, a "Yankee," who dwelt in a country that was not fully "reconstructed." Mr. Bailey had a fine ability as a speaker, and generally won verdicts from a jury. Of strong likes and dislikes, he frequently became involved in serious disagreements with some

of those with whom he came in contact, but he had more friends than enemies and the latter were generally willing to give much credit to their opponent. He died in March, 1907, at his home, in Pringhar, where he had been engaged in the practice.

George W. Schee, another old soldier, was admitted to the bar in 1880. He had served as auditor of the county, was a soldier with a war record to be proud of, and has for many years exercised a leading part in the business life, politics and prosperity of the county. He served as a member of the state Legislature in the twentieth, twenty-first, twenty-third and thirty-fourth General Assemblies of Iowa. His ability as a tactician and his thorough understanding of parliamentary law gave him a prominent position in the House, and had he returned to the twenty-second General Assembly there is little doubt but that he would have been elected speaker of the House. As a lawyer, he was not attracted to the profession, having a distaste for the details and minutia of the legal conduct of a case, but as a general, to plan out a campaign of legal action, he had ability of a high order.

James B. Dunn, who had been admitted to the bar in Adair county, Iowa, settled in Pringhar in 1880, but soon removed to Sutherland when that town was organized. Elected to the office of county attorney in 1886, he again removed to Pringhar, remaining there till January 1, 1893, when his term of office expired. Practicing at Sheldon for awhile, he later removed to Bedford, Taylor county, Iowa, serving as county attorney of that county from 1903 to 1907. He now resides at Callaway, Nebraska, but is not actively engaged in practice.

George F. Coleord, an early settler, formerly in the drug business at Sheldon, was admitted to the bar in 1881 and removed soon afterward to Sutherland, where he remained in the practice of law until his death, in 1902. He also served as postmaster in Sutherland. He had an honorable record for service in the Civil War. He was strongly Democratic in his politics and achieved considerable success in the practice of his profession.

J. A. Stocum, who from the earliest times in the history of the county had been largely interested in real estate here, was for many years an instructor in the commercial college of Bryant & Stratton in Chicago. In 1881 he removed to Sanborn and was engaged in the practice there till his death, in 1891.

Charles H. Bullis, brother-in-law of O. M. Barrett, formed a partnership with the latter in Sheldon in 1881. Bullis was a graduate of Yale,

heading his class in mathematics, and for seven years he held a chair of mathematics in Columbia College in New York City. For a period he was employed as clerk in the treasury department at Washington. He was a close student, a hard worker, of brilliant attainments and an excellent lawyer. He died suddenly in 1885.

Charles McKenzie, a talented lawyer, was in the eighties for a short time engaged in the practice in Sheldon. Later he practiced in Des Moines, where he died several years ago.

Frank M. Shonkwiler, arriving here in 1882, practiced his profession two or three years at Pringhar and Sanborn. He was dramatic and talented, but had very little business ability.

Charles E. Foote, admitted to the bar in Winneshiek county, practiced law at Sanborn for two or three years in the early eighties. Prior to that time he had been principal of the schools at Sanborn. In 1883, wisely concluding it better to get into a business that had some money in it, he forsook the law and entered the railroad service. He has continued in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway to this day, having held position as passenger train conductor for many years.

William D. Boies, admitted to the bar in 1880, settled in Sanborn soon afterward, forming a partnership with Cal Bradstreet. In 1890 he removed to Sheldon, where, for a time, he was associated with G. W. Roth. In 1912 he was appointed by Governor Carroll to the vacancy in the district judgeship of the fourth judicial district caused by election of Judge Gaynor to the supreme bench. Judge Boies is now filling office under that appointment. He is a nephew of ex-Governor Horace Boies, and by industry, studiousness, honesty and ability, born of hard work, he has risen to the top of his profession. For many years while he was in the practice he was recognized as the leader of the bar in northwestern Iowa and his services were required at practically every term of court in the four northwestern counties. Observers of his earlier life presaged his success when they found him, day after day, drilling along in the hot stuffy office, reading and re-reading the Iowa reports and every law book he could get hold of, in the limited library at his disposal while in Sanborn.

Scott M. Ladd engaged in the practice of his profession in Sheldon in 1883. Always a good lawyer, he never acquired the habit of attracting or at least of getting business, and his practice was of the limited sort. He naturally, however, possessed the fine legal mind and qualification which was

improved by close attention to his work, jealously guarding himself against the pitfalls that have tripped so many young attorneys who turned aside to earn money outside of the profession. In 1886 he was elected district judge and ably filled that office until the end of 1896. In the fall of that year he was elected judge of the supreme court and has since filled that office with honor to himself and satisfaction to the voters. Three times has he filled the office of chief justice and three times elected as supreme judge, rounding out over a quarter of a century of honored service. And this renewed expression of the confidence of the people expressed at the polls, of his ability as a judge and character as a man is a higher testimonial of his worth than could otherwise be here expressed.

In 1882 O. D. Hamstreet commenced the practice of law in Paullina and, as history records it, spent three hundred dollars in building him a law office. After two years he sold his office and practice to H. H. Crow and entered the newspaper field. Mr. Crow had entered the practice at Sutherland in 1883. He was a graduate of the State University of Iowa and one of the most studious and conscientious lawyers who ever practiced in the county. Naturally slow and plodding in his methods, he was sure of what he did do, and when he entered court for trial of a case you might well rest assured that he had a well worked out theory of the case, a thoroughly digested brief of the law and facts, and that there was not a point in his case that had not received careful attention. He gave his case an intensity of mental attention that in the end undermined his health. At various times he had assistants in his office, who helped in the handling of the business. Among these we may mention ——— Hilliard, H. E. Dean, A. M. Hunter and L. D. Hobson. These were all lawyers of some ability and were here for but short periods each, although Mr. Hobson was later in the practice alone here for some years.

W. J. Lorshbough, admitted to the practice in 1886, remained in Pringhar for but a short time, when he went to Hartley and engaged in the banking business and is now in the latter business at Fargo, North Dakota.

H. H. McLaury, who was a student in the law office of Barrett & Bullis at Sheldon in the early eighties, returned to Sheldon in 1889 and practiced law there for a short time. Later he practiced at Sioux City.

L. J. Birdseye was in the practice at Sheldon in 1889, forming a partnership with Judge Morton for a short time. He is now engaged in his profession at Spokane, Washington.

H. C. Vail and Ralph Hobart entered practice at Primghar about 1889, but soon moved west. Hobart went to Dell Rapids, South Dakota, where he was later elected county judge. Vail is engaged in practice, and has earned considerable reputation as a lawyer, at Albion, Nebraska.

P. H. Hackett and W. E. Brady were lawyers at Sanborn in 1889, the latter also practicing at Sheldon for a time.

J. A. Wilcox removed to Sanborn from Milford, Iowa, in 1889, entering into partnership with Milt H. Allen. Later he practiced alone, when Allen went to Sheldon. In 1911 he removed to Redmond, Oregon, where he has a prosperous practice.

J. W. Walter began his legal career at Hartley in 1886, and had the honor in 1888 of defeating Frank A. Turner for clerk of courts, and held the office four years. He did not afterwards actively engage in the practice of law, giving his attention to private business at Hartley. Later he was in banking business at Groton, North Dakota, and is now living in Los Angeles, California.

T. F. Ward came to Primghar with the railroad in 1887. He was a bright lawyer, of pleasant, social disposition, rather inclined to wear good clothes, and made money in his chosen profession. He took an active part in politics, was a leading Democrat, and prominent in the business life of the community. Later he was in banking business at LeMars and is now holding the office of county judge at Geddes, South Dakota.

O. H. Montzheimer arrived in Primghar in the spring of 1888 and has been in the practice of his profession there since. He is employed as local attorney by each of the five railroad companies transacting business in the county and enjoys a lucrative practice.

F. A. Ainsworth, a brilliant young lawyer, won many friends at Sheldon in 1890. He was there but a short time, when he was taken ill and died.

C. A. Babcock, who had been in the practice at Humboldt, Iowa, settled at Sanborn in 1891, and has been continuously in the practice since. In 1896 he was elected county attorney. He held the office two years, but refused to accept again unless the salary was raised. In 1913 he removed to Sheldon. Babcock is a keen student, lover of a good story, scorns to earn money outside his profession and enjoys a good practice.

W. W. Artherholt and Clarence Ingham, graduates of the law department of the State University, succeeded T. F. Ward in the practice at Primghar in 1892. Later they entered into partnership with Mr. Peck, the

firm becoming Peck, Artherholt & Ingham. Ingham later removed to Bridgeport, Washington, and is now in business in Los Angeles, residing at Pomona, California. Mr. Artherholt is postmaster at Pringhar, has extensive farming interests and is still in partnership with Mr. Peck.

J. T. Conn entered the office of Warren Walker, having charge of the Pringhar business in 1889. In 1892 to 1894, inclusive, he held the office of county auditor and that was followed by two years as county attorney. Following that he re-engaged in the practice of law at Hartley.

S. A. Calvert, who was circuit judge in the fifth judicial district, living at Adel, in Dallas county, and holding office from 1878 until he was legislated out of office in 1886, soon afterwards removed to Sheldon. Prior to his location in the county he held a term of court here in exchange with one of the judges of the district. His years of service on the bench had somewhat unfitted him for the active contest for business and while he had a nice practice at Sheldon he gave it up in 1891 and removed to North Yakima, Washington.

Joe Morton, son of Judge Alfred Morton, entered practice with his father in 1894. He was county attorney in 1903-05. Naturally of a lively social disposition and pleasant ways, the study of law did not prove attractive to him and he soon entered politics, securing appointment as postmaster at Sheldon. Later he resigned that to take a position at Sioux City as secretary of the Interstate Fair, which office he now holds.

G. W. Roth, a graduate of Ann Arbor, formed a partnership at Sheldon with W. D. Boies in 1891. He was not active in trial work, giving his attention to office business and care of his private real estate interests. He removed to Worthington, Minnesota.

David Alger, a settler in the county in 1872, who served as superintendent of schools from 1882 to 1888, inclusive, was born April 5, 1849. He served in the Union army in the Civil War, and in 1905 proved his ability as a student by perfecting a legal education and was admitted to the bar, at the age of forty-seven years. About the same time he mastered the German language and removed to Paullina, where he has since practiced law. He has a fine practice and is one lawyer who has made considerable money strictly in the practice of his profession. From 1890 to 1895 he held the office of county coroner.

Edwin T. Langley, who valiantly served his country in an Iowa regiment during the Civil War, came to Sanborn from Huron, South Dakota,

in 1895. He had attained some fame as a speaker and was capable of making a polished and pleasing address as a lecturer. He was in partnership for a time with his son and also with A. J. Walsmith, but later removed to Santa Ana, California.

A. J. Walsmith, a graduate of the State University, entered practice at Sanborn in 1895 and later removed to Sheldon. He was county attorney from 1899 to 1902 inclusive. He is now residing at Oskaloosa, Iowa, and has abandoned the law business.

Charles F. McCormack, at one time in the practice at Peterson and at Sutherland in 1897, gave up his profession and tills the soil in Waterman township.

G. A. Gibson came to Sheldon in 1896. He had been admitted to the bar two years previous thereto. He is still in the practice at Sheldon.

G. T. Wellman, previously employed in a governmental position at Washington, D. C., removed to Sheldon in 1895. He is a close student and one of the best-read lawyers in the county, having what few lawyers possess—a thorough knowledge of the common law practice. He takes the business that comes to his office and gives his clients the benefit of an expert knowledge of the principles of the law. He served as referee in bankruptcy 1903 to 1912.

W. P. Briggs came to Hartley from Sioux City in 1892, having been admitted to practice in 1888. He was a good lawyer, a thorough office man and had the best office system of keeping track of his work of any lawyer in the county. He was generally successful and removed to Idaho in 1912 on account of failing health.

Earl W. Brown, a Sheldon boy, raised in the county, was admitted to practice and a partner of Milt Allen in 1894. Eventually he entered the banking business.

Louis Vogt, admitted to practice in 1895, remained at Sanborn for a short time and later removed to George, in Lyon county, Iowa, and there entered the practice of his profession.

John McCandless came to Sheldon in 1892. He was admitted to practice in 1880, but has not given active attention to his profession in this county. He has been connected with a loan and trust company and other duties have hindered him in the pursuit of law. He really has too much money to be classed as a lawyer; is a competent business man, pleasant and

honorable in his dealings and has won for himself a high esteem and opinion among the people of the county.

I. N. McIntire, who arrived in Sheldon in 1890, formed a partnership with J. B. Dunn, but conducted his business alone when Mr. Dunn removed from the county. He has a fine personality, a pleasant way and few, if any, enemies. He has travelled a little from the strict pathway of the law, engaged in real estate enterprises, but still possesses a nice practice.

F. B. Robinson came to Sheldon in 1889, succeeding P. R. Bailey. He later removed to Sioux City, where he made money in the practice of his profession, and later moved west. He was a graduate of the law department of the State University.

W. H. Weber, admitted to practice in 1900, remained at Sheldon for about ten years. He was justice of the peace and had a moderate practice, but did not try many contested cases.

John T. Cullen, at one time partner of Milt Allen in the Sheldon office, arrived in the county in 1895.

W. H. Downing, mayor of Primghar, has been in the practice since his graduation from the State University in 1902.

E. M. Sayles practiced his profession in Primghar for nine years, arriving here in 1903. He had previously resided at Akron, Iowa. He is now in the practice at Faith, South Dakota.

Roscoe J. Locke was admitted to the bar in 1902, having previously resided in the county, engaged in the business of "teaching the young idea how to shoot." He was first located at Sutherland and was appointed county attorney when Joe Morton resigned early in 1906. He has been repeatedly elected since and still holds the office. He is an honest, conscientious lawyer, a hard student and his habits of industry mark him as one who will attain prominence in his profession.

J. B. Johannsen, Jr., who practiced in the county in 1905, was here for but a short time. He resided at Hartley.

C. C. Coyle, in 1909, and A. M. Kent, in 1910, were other lawyers practicing for a short time at Hartley.

Sidney C. Kerberg, admitted to the bar in 1909, established himself in the practice of law at Sanborn, where he had grown to manhood. In 1913 he removed to Audubon, Iowa, where he is now engaged in practice.

James B. Lindsay and Spencer A. Phelps, of the firm of Lindsay & Phelps, of Sheldon, have been in the county since 1912, succeeding to the

business of W. P. Briggs. They are bright young men, possessed of good legal minds, and are bound to succeed. Mr. Lindsay is city attorney and Mr. Phelps referee in bankruptcy, having in charge the bankruptcy business of some six northwestern Iowa counties.

T. E. Diamond, who has practiced at Sheldon since 1905, is a good lawyer, a hard fighter and has a lucrative practice. He is prominent in the councils of the Democratic party.

W. J. E. Thatcher, who was admitted to the bar in 1913, is at present clerk of court, but expects to enter practice at end of his present term.

CHAPTER XIX.

LITIGATION IN O'BRIEN COUNTY.

The experience of O'Brien county in the amount or aggregate quantity of litigation, and of the changes that have resulted as the county has grown older in years, has been much the same as many other rural and farming counties in Iowa. Its probate work has increased as the years have moved on. All other litigations have decreased. There are many reasons for this. The county was first settled by young and middle aged men, mainly by men under forty years of age. It followed, therefore, that the death rate per thousand people has increased each year thus far. This necessarily increases the probate work and all that class of court proceedings relating to wills, executors, trustees, administrators and guardians, and actions for the partition and sale of real estate and divisions of property among heirs and children. This large class of court proceedings very seldom calls for a jury and belongs to that division of litigation passed upon by the court, upon short hearings in large part. The rapid advance in price of land from ten to one hundred and fifty and more dollars per acre, within the short space of thirty years, on the other hand in settlements of estates and partitions has had the tendency to leave the families satisfied with court results, and has usually brought about adjustments with but a nominal number of contests. Indeed so far in the county this advance from year to year has been so rapid that, no matter what the questions involved, the heirs as a rule have received more than he or she expected, and satisfactory adjustment has been the rule rather than the exception. This, however, means only in the general tendency. Also, while the values have gone up, the rates of interest have gone down, and as a consequence the amounts in which loans could be placed on a forty, eighty or quarter section of land have increased in this thirty years from three dollars per acre until now, if needed, loans can actually be made from sixty dollars per acre to even seventy-five per acre. In these partitions of property among the second generation or now third, and occasionally fourth, generations from the original homesteader, these lands and loans that can be made enable these children and heirs to buy each other out in shares and handle matters in that way. The tendencies of all these situations have been

to smooth out frictions and to end what might otherwise be litigations. The great prosperities of these later years have paid off hundreds of these mortgages and lessened the number of foreclosures of mortgages. It seemed a curious fact that the court records show far more foreclosures in the earlier days, when only five hundred dollars could be borrowed and when the poorer settler was paying ten per cent. interest, than now when he could, if he wished, borrow ten thousand at five per cent.

Another prominent item has tended to the later lessening of litigation. During the period from 1873 to 1885 the numbers of sales of land for taxes were, as compared to the last ten years, as twenty to one. Tax sales in the county are now a rarity. Tax deeds then were as ten to one now. No matter how careful the tax purchaser, his tax deed was under the ban of a natural prejudice. The courts were called upon to establish his rights. Those tax title questions have now been practically all solved out. Those litigations are past, though it took a goodly number of years and many litigations to do it. Land is now worth too much to allow it to go to sale, much less to a deed. Even the refuse or back town lots in the smallest towns are too valuable to lose out in a tax deed.

Another big question in the earlier days which contributed to the extent of litigation were the contests between the early homesteaders and squatters and railroads and between each other. This was especially notable in the long years of litigation over the overlapping lands. This subject has been exhaustively gone into in the chapter on Homesteads, Free Lands and Squatters, and we need not here repeat its details. When men are contesting for possession of land, it arouses far more frictions and determinations to fight than when simply partitioning out lands of large value, where cash is ready for the heir. When excited men are contending for the nine points of law or present possession and actually putting in their crops on top of each other it caused many litigations. Farming with threatening revolvers or writs of ejection increased the number of suits.

The period in the early day when every tract practically had to have a loan on it to carry the land and other debts, called on the technical Eastern loan company to investigate the title to each tract. Much of the early business was necessarily done loosely, land being cheap, and owners did not look after the loopholes. These Eastern loans and the looking into the titles to warrant making them, kept straightening out those titles, together with the suits necessary to make the records right. All this kept decreasing the number of questions, calling for trouble, between neighbors, purchasers or loan companies. That class of litigation is now largely out of the way.

The collection of the many hundreds of private debts contracted in the early days increased the litigations and numbers of suits. The payment of most of those old matters has made the people independent and more contented. Besides the very fact that people have more to do with, and handle themselves and their properties, and that they plan in larger figures, make them better satisfied and contented. Contentment and a happy frame of mind ends much litigation.

THE LARGER AND LESSER LITIGATIONS.

It is a little difficult to draw a line between the leading and the lesser litigations. It sometimes occurs that some lesser decisions are more important than the greater.

Perhaps the one great suit decided in the supreme court of the United States on October 21, 1895, relating to the twenty-two thousand acres of overlapping lands claimed by the railroads, and involving one hundred and twenty-five families, was the most important single litigated matter brought into one court ever affecting our people. True, however, that that was in the federal courts. The fact that some six to eight hundred suits in our own court house in Pringhar all hovered around this nucleus of litigation, made it in effect an O'Brien county litigation. See the chapter on homesteads and free lands for a full statement.

The second largest litigation ever in the county was the series of suits in our own courts, during the same period, testing out those large mass of legal questions of the taxation of those same railroad lands, and when taxation commenced. These questions were somewhat akin to the land questions themselves. The county commenced the assessment and levy of taxes on those lands as early as 1873, on the theory that the railroads under the grant by Congress should commence to pay taxes when they should have earned them, or at least when they did earn them. The county did this to save whatever rights might later be found to exist. We make these tax suits a separate series from the lands, as in this series of suits the county of O'Brien, as a financial institution, was a party and became interested in the collection of its revenues that it should have had in years gone by. To further complicate matters, several boards during the years had entered into sundry contracts with the railroads attempting to fix dates when taxation commenced. In this series of suits questions were raised that even the boards of supervisors had no right to make contracts that would lessen the people's rights to collect its revenues, and that the determining point when

taxation commenced depended on the deeper questions of congressional land grants and other questions by the courts, and the questions when title commenced, so that taxation could be had, were all gone into. In the meantime also the county, by its treasurers, had in some of the years sold some of these lands for these disputed taxes and sundry tax deeds had been issued on same. But even this series of tax suits largely lingered around the one great parent suit in the supreme court of the United States of 1895 referred to, and the attendant federal litigation. In the main, and as a final result, the homesteader and squatter paid his back taxes after he secured patent and during the subsequent years, and those who secured title by virtue of being holders of the railroad contracts were held to pay taxes for many years further back, as they stood in the shoes of the railroads. The payment and collection of these large amounts of back taxes in such large sums in these later years between 1900 and 1910 replenished the treasuries in the sundry funds and much aided the county in solving out some of these serious financial straits caused by the old debt. This suit or series of suits involved approximately one hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars, which as collected was distributed among the various funds, state, county, town and school.

AN EARLY BIG LITIGATION AND BREAK.

One of the earliest of the largest litigations, involving many separate suits, was the failure in 1892 and 1893, of Frank Teabout, of Sanborn, or rather, perhaps, of Teabout & Vallean. Mr. Teabout, up to that time, had been one of the largest of the big farmers. His farming operations were generally referred to as "Teabout's ranches." In fact, he had been a large farmer in both Winesheik and O'Brien counties, handling thousands of acres with great success. He was a man of brains. His personal movement of body was like the tread of royalty. By an unfortunate plunge for him, in 1878, in his older age, he had taken into partnership William H. Vallean, who had even prior to that been a plunger and had broken up on a large scale in Decorah, Winesheik county, and a full-grown and all-around speculator on the board of trade, with no capital. Stores and grain elevators were soon started in several towns. Mr. Vallean was a rapid-firing gun. It was but a short time until Mr. Teabout's large accumulations of a long lifetime were involved in a mesh of complicated business, including even a twenty-thousand-dollar mortgage executed to Field, Lindley & Company, a speculating firm on the board of trade in Chicago, and covering all his farm properties. When the crash came, divers judgments were rendered against the firm and litiga-

tions involving the various features of the break lasted for years, involving, it was claimed, from one hundred and fifty to two hundred thousand dollars. Many forms of litigation followed, all resulting in a series amounting to one of the large litigations of O'Brien county.

A. P. POWERS VS. COUNTY TREASURER.

This suit was on the record of the court for many years, commencing in 1879. As this suit and its connections was fully gone into in the chapter of the Taxpayers' Associations and other subjects, we need not repeat. It was brought by the Taxpayers' Association to enjoin the payment of the county debt of two hundred and thirty thousand dollars. It was a curious oddity of this suit that while we must rank it as one of the great litigations of the county it never was itself tried in the court. It went to the supreme court on a side question; but was dropped. The injunction was in force two years.

AMHERST H. WILDER.

Amherst H. Wilder was one of the trustees of the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad and resided in St. Paul. He was in his individual capacity wealthy and as such individual and as trustee, and in his estate and that of his wife, connected with some very extensive records in our courts.

JOHN IRWIN SUITS.

This was one of the very long series of tax title suits brought in the county involving thousands of acres of land in this as well as Clay county, and many parts of Nebraska. but ended with practically no actual trials in this county. John Irwin spent his life in Nebraska City. For some reason, as the facts developed, it seemed that during his long life his one great hobby was to fight, not simply tax titles, but taxes, fighting whether or no and to resist them in every shape. He refused to pay taxes, he refused to redeem them from taxes when sold, and let them go to tax deeds and then fought the tax deeds. This hobby became almost a mania. He held the patent or first fee titles. Notices were served on him for these tax deeds and still he paid no attention. Later on he died. Then his heirs opened up the question that these eccentric hobbies of his were not only hobbies, but that they constituted insanity, and that a tax deed could not be procured against an insane man. These long-drawn-out sundry litigations being in so many

different courts and covering so many years, though mainly tried in other jurisdictions, met with all sorts of results. They were on the court records of O'Brien county for more than ten years. This large number of suits held on our records for so many years were largely notorious as mere levers or clouds on titles to collect something, notorious in the negative and practically were never tried.

LITIGATION OVER THE SHELDON BANK.

As stated in the article on Banks and Banking, the liquidation of Ed. C. Brown's bank, known as the Sheldon State Bank, was the only bank in forty years that ever broke up and landed its troubles in the courts in this county. In its details, it involved also a series of litigations and court proceedings. Mr. Brown was himself indicted for embezzlement, the trial lasting a week, in which, however, he was acquitted. A receiver was appointed for the bank, in the person of R. W. Ady. The bank had had everybody's confidence. The whole break-up covered, or rather included, property questions relating to about one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, branching out in all its details of banking on both sides of the ledger. Its deposits included sundry large sums from the county and school treasuries, and funds from other banks and various trust funds. These items involved many legal problems as to whether preferences should be given to certain trust deposits or other peculiarities connected with their deposit in the bank, and many of the questions were carried clear to the supreme court of the state. The right to such preferences were not sustained, except as to one small claim collected by the bank the day it closed its doors, the details of the suit being too extensive to go into in this article. On the whole, as a record bunch of litigations it all ranks as one of the leading litigations of the county. The bank paid dividends of about seventy-three per cent.

ISRAEL LASH LAND RECORD AND LITIGATION.

This set of court proceedings covered a large acreage in this county, and was one of the largest in volume and number of pages of record from other state courts in the United States, ever in the county. It was not, however, large litigation in the sense of serious questions submitted to the courts for decision, but in the patient and plodding details needed to complete same, and was all collected and closed in one of the largest, in acreage involved, of the large partition suits of land in the county. Mr. Lash had died, leaving an

unusually large and complex set of family connections, scattered everywhere, to such an extent as to become overwhelming. It was an action for partition and sale of lands. The heirs and children and brothers and sisters and grandchildren, in one hundred and twenty-two sets of families or divisions of people or groups to be dealt with, involving wills, and administrators, executors, guardians, minors and insane, scattered in a dozen states and in all manners of courts. To make things doubly sure, in addition to the immense court records, the parties finally sent a special agent to see all the parties and got quit claim deeds in each of these large list of families. It was a complete piece of work, however, and stood the test of scores of title examiners during the past twenty-five years.

ELIZABETH STREETER.

This bunch of litigations, or rather lack of litigations, was one of the oddities of court proceedings. In 1897 Elizabeth Streeter leased a half section of land in Omega township, with a proviso in the lease giving her an option to buy it at any time during the lease at a given price. Thus it can be seen she had absolutely nothing invested. She soon skillfully had it circulated broadcast, both by word of mouth and in the papers, that a very wealthy German lady was opening up an expensive set of farming operations. As if by magic, it soon piled up a sort of mountain-high credit. She had the appearance of the most sublime rustic innocence, that captured bankers, business men and everybody. She understood, in fact, all branches of business methods. She captured the very elect. She attended all the stock sales and bought extensively. She signed notes and papers in plenty. She bought fine teams of horses, and cattle and even down to ducks and chickens, grain, farm machinery, built buildings, fences, all on an elaborate scale. Of course the bubble broke. All sorts of suits and attachments followed. Still she held her nerve. She was arrested, indicted and landed in jail. She would walk directly away from the sheriff and out and away from the court, with utter disregard to court proceedings. Her trial was never even finished. She feigned sickness and escaped entirely, but was soon heard of in the same business in other places. In the meantime, she walked away from this county with her accumulations, amounting to thousands. Her apparent innocence outgeneraled the best business men in several counties.

One of the large litigations in the county in the early days was over the establishment of the independent school district of Sheldon. The city of Sheldon, being exactly on the county line between O'Brien and Sioux, it can

be seen that were the town to be confined in its landed territory for taxation purposes to that reasonable limit, only that the district could extend eastward in O'Brien county, it could not secure enough funds to build and equip an adequate school for such a prospective town. Happily the law of Iowa provided for just such a contingency, as common sense would say it should. The law seemed perfectly plain. But this did not appear to be plain to the Sioux county officials or people. They contested the right very energetically through all the courts, but the town of Sheldon finally won out and has ever since enjoyed sufficient territory on both sides of the line.

The county has had no feuds, no unconquerable plaintiffs or defendants, or at least very few, no clannish citizenship, or trouble causing uprisings that have lasted through the generations. The homestead and squatter litigations were the longest and most numerous, but even these litigations were normal and natural and grew out of real questions. The people of the county may be said to be satisfied with the local administrative justice, its courts and its litigation. Nineteen-twentieths of its people are engaged in some actual independent occupation, each individual acting for himself. The county has no bodies of people dependent on one factory or separate concern. The county never had a strike or its equivalent, for the reason that it never had any of the conditions for a strike. All this has kept its litigation healthy and natural.

QUIETING TITLE LITIGATION.

The many early tax deeds, the bogus swamp land deeds, and title clouds by possession and otherwise, have been the cause of many quieting title suits. For instance, Herman Greve, who purchased many thousands of acres at the large tax sale of 1874 and other years, procured tax deeds to about four thousand two hundred acres by tax deed in 1879, bringing thirty-five separate suits to quiet title in one term of court.

The county, as organized and managed by the board of supervisors, has been very fortunate in not having other than normal litigations, none overwhelmingly serious. Its criminal trials, in results and in costs, have been natural and reasonable in amount. It has never had a criminal suit where the costs have reached the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, exclusive of attorney fees. Its investigations, for instance, by coroners and justices of the peace, looking in the direction of murder and manslaughter, scarce reach a half dozen in the forty years, and the actual trials not that number. The county has never yet had in its criminal litigation what might be called a "swamper," either in amount of costs or excessive length of time taken by the court.

The claims for damages against the county thus far have been minor in importance, and it has never had a judgment rendered against it as yet reaching above a few hundred dollars. Indeed, in both damage and criminal suits its expenses have been nominal, as compared with the fate of some other counties.

The people of the county have had considerable litigation in the federal courts, over the overlapping lands, as we have recited in that chapter. The fact that one or other of the parties in suits have been nonresidents of the state has transferred many cases from the district court at Primghar to the United States court at Sioux City. This has been especially true in many cases against the railroads, the roads showing that they were nonresidents, by reason of having been incorporated in another state, and that the amount involved entitled it to go there.

REFEREE IN BANKRUPTCY.

The United States court at Sioux City, since 1898, has appointed and maintained a referee in bankruptcy residing in this county. He hears all petitions in bankruptcy, and takes all evidence, and passes upon all contested questions except that of discharge in bankruptcy, which must be done by the court at Sioux City. It becomes quite a court within itself.

The following persons have been appointed and filled this office of referee in bankruptcy, and who have presided over that court: J. L. E. Peck, from August, 1898, to September, 1903; George T. Wellman, from July, 1903, to July, 1911; Spencer A. Phelps, from 1911 to the present time.

During Mr. Peck's period of about five years there were brought and tried ninety-one bankruptcy proceedings. A corresponding number have been filed and heard during the period of the other referees.

The records of the referee's court are all finally deposited with and become a part of the proceedings in the United States district court at Sioux City or Dubuque. The referee handles these bankruptcies very much as an estate is handled in a probate court, and makes all orders relating to same. Trustees, however, are appointed by the referee, who conserve the properties and distribute the funds under orders by the referee, all matters of which may be reviewed on appeal to the court itself at Sioux City. Some large properties, reaching as high as forty thousand dollars and upwards, have been handled. One plunger of a merchant, or rather perhaps a transient merchant, at Sutherland in 1899 was refused a discharge in bankruptcy until

he should pay into the court the sum of fifteen thousand dollars he was adjudged to be holding back from the creditors, which item was appealed to the United States court at Sioux City and the ruling of the referee sustained. Other items of like import and size, and of various phases on the lines of bankruptcy, have been before the court.

Referring again to general litigation in the county, the jury trials have run from three to five per term of court, or perhaps a dozen per year, occasionally fifteen to twenty, or about seven to eight hundred jury trials in the grand total of forty years.

So far in the history of the county during the forty years, and up to January 1, 1914, the suits and numbers of proceedings brought have numbered as follows: In the old circuit court, abolished in 1886, there were brought one thousand four hundred and fourteen cases, and transcripts to that court amounted to thirty-nine. In the district court to January 1, 1914, and which court has existed for the whole period of the county, there have been seven thousand nine hundred and sixty suits and proceedings, and one thousand nine hundred and eighty-six transcripts. In the probate branch of the district court during the whole period of the county there have been, up to January 1, 1914, one thousand one hundred and thirty-four estates, guardianships and kindred proceedings. In grand total of all proceedings there have been twelve thousand five hundred and thirty-three up to January 1, 1914.

Thus it can be seen that fully three-fourths of all actual material court work in the county is done by the judges. Of all that large number of suits and causes of action in the county only about seven to eight hundred have been tried by a jury. No single case in open court in the county has ever exceeded about nine days in actual trial. It may be truly said, therefore, that the county has never been seriously cursed with any *Harry K. Thaw*, *Jarndice vs. Jarndice*, or *McNamara* trials, as in other places.

ESTATES.

Of the large estates and guardianships the following are among the larger of the county: Jonathan A. Stocum, William Harker, Elizabeth Harker, John Metcalf, Henry C. Lane, E. Y. Royce, Thomas Nott, E. M. Brady, James McKeon and others.

To sum up briefly, the litigation in the county has mainly consisted of normal law suits naturally arising, with conclusions reached. We have not

attempted details and perhaps have not recited all or even the most important litigations. Among all these thousands of proceedings, as can be seen, it would be difficult to give a brief review in the space allotted in this article; it would need a book to enter into even a considerable number. We have, however, given enough to show the general outline of the litigation in O'Brien county.

The justices' courts of the county are much the same as found in other counties in the state. This, however, is the people's court, with jurisdiction up to one hundred dollars, and by consent of parties up to three hundred dollars. It comes in touch in each neighborhood with the citizens in the several townships. As will be seen from figures above given, there have been in all two thousand and twenty-five transcripts filed in the district court. A large number, perhaps a full half, have been transcripts or appeals from the justices' courts of the county, the remaining transcripts being transcripts of judgments and proceedings from the courts of record in other counties. The above numbers, however, would only be a small part of the actual trials and judgments rendered in those courts, a large majority of whose trials and hearings become final.

CHAPTER XX.

THE PRESS.

In the educational chapter we named and gave the ten newspapers in our several towns a place among the educational features of the county. We sometimes smile at the country newspaper as if a sort of a little upstart, an amateur attempt to be a paper, and joke about its patent insides, as a product of a Sears, Roebuck & Company machine set of brains. But we will not retract our first measure. They have played a part in all the main historic incidents herein recorded. They are like matches and salt cellars, found in every home. They are a necessity.

How often, when absent from home, do we wait the mail with a longing thought of home and of neighborhood incidents going on. When the paper arrives it becomes a combination news-letter, of all the doings of the whole town and county, with a hundred items the folks at home have failed to tell. These county newspapers become gladsome and joyous, to the ears and to the eyes. Like the Stars and Stripes, they float, they stir up your loyalty to wife, children, home, town and county.

Perhaps they state that Mary has arrived home from Grinnell or Drake University and your vanity is tickled. "Little Johnnie spoke a piece in the school program." Your family letter had not thought it of sufficient importance or had not thought of it at all, but such an item is not thought too small by the patient news-gathering editor or the typesetter. A local man starts up as a candidate. You read it and ache to get home to help him or lick him out. Your wife is elected president of the Priscilla or Ladies Aid Society, or a daughter appears in the League and your mind thinks "some pumpkins." Your daughter is married and the time-honored list of silver pickle dishes and spoons is published. Your own getting on the train to make the present trip is noted, and you feel two inches taller. Your baby wins a prize in the baby show, and you jump three jumps twenty feet to show it to somebody. When thus away from home, you even find yourself reading the advertisements, the executor's notices and bridge lettings. You read perhaps that your own town bank has two hundred and eighty thousand dollars on deposits according to their advertisement;

that your neighbor sold three carloads of steers, or that the machine dealer sold twenty manure spreaders that season. You read the markets, even if you are not in business on those lines. They link you up, these county papers do, to "Home Sweet Home," and perhaps your throat begins to choke. The local doings, even if you are at home, are there condensed, in a way you never would have had time to run around and find out yourself, and saves you being called a gossip, hunting around for news. Careful notation of the "haps" and pointers and "squiblets," small per item, but you read them quickly. When mother is dead the obituary is carefully written up, and the tear drops fall as you read the notice over and over, in the years to come. All the hallowed items, including all the joyous sentiments, revolve around mother, home and heaven, with love floating as a banner; that word, the purest and holiest word in the English language, all bubbling up through the human heart and soul Godward.

The daily Chicago papers could not supply the place. Some pungent editor sticks you righteously between the ribs and you get wrathful when it hits you and roll all over with laughter when it hits the other fellow. When done, the paper is laid down, and then picked up again to read them over, and then still over again; you have secured a fund of information and knowledge of home and family and town and county and business, of dollars in value, as likewise showing up the joys and wits of local interest, and you must at last conclude rightly that the ten papers in O'Brien county are in fact real sources of information and education.

It is believed by many that the press is an educator which is only surpassed by the public school and if it is true that truth and its dissemination is better than falsehood—if refined and elevating thought is better than groveling and bestial longings—then the country newspaper has a mission, and it is not without its responsibilities.

Again, the country editor occupies another peculiar place. In the affections of the people he is a public benefactor. He is generally poor because the spirit within him compels him to do the unremunerative work of the community. His talents are not always those of the financier. A part of the talent of the financier is to do the thing that pays—pays money. If there be needful things to do which have no profit, let others do them. All honor to the man whose life has been an industrious and helpful one and who has done the gratuities of the world and who comes down to the grave with an empty purse. Such a life dignifies privation and poverty above the dignity of kings, and is the growing sentiment of the world.

The first newspaper circulated in this county was established in Old O'Brien in 1871 by John R. Pumphrey. B. F. McCormack, that ubiquitous and eccentrically talented individual who for nearly forty years was more or less connected with the business life of the county, was its first editor. It was denominated the *O'Brien Pioneer*, printed in Cherokee county by Robert Buchanan and thus continued until the spring of 1872, when Col. L. B. Raymond, then publishing a paper at Cherokee, as part of a general plan for profitable establishment of newspapers in counties newly organized, to get the valuable county printing, opened a printing office at Old O'Brien and on May 24, 1872, he published the first paper printed in the county, continuing the former publication as the *O'Brien Pioneer*. Without interruption that paper has continued, published by varying printers and editors, awhile at Primghar and later at Sanborn. It is now known as the *Sanborn Pioneer*. In November, 1872, A. H. Willits purchased the paper and continued the publication at Primghar the following spring, when the county seat was removed to the center of the county in compliance with the election of 1872. In 1873 Major C. W. Inman purchased a half interest, but he was soon displaced by J. R. Pumphrey, the banker of the county seat, who sold to A. G. Willits in April, 1875. The latter was a son of A. H. Willits. The latter was thus identified with the paper for some seven years. And during most of that time, by virtue of his office as clerk of the courts, he was able to throw much of the patronage in way of legal notices to his paper. In January, 1879, he retired from the clerk's office and nominally from the paper, but still loaned some of his energy to editorial work. July 1, 1879, Warren Walker, an attorney of Primghar, purchased an interest and he and A. G. Willits continued its publication until 1880, when the plant was moved from Primghar to Sanborn. In 1881 the name was changed to *Sanborn Pioneer*, A. G. Willits being then sole owner. A. H. Willits was a forceful character in the conduct of his paper, vigorous in his style and ready to defend his rights, his town and his paper. During his life of action in the county and while publishing the paper, there cropped out the first of that rivalry that has to a greater or less degree existed between Primghar and Sheldon. This jealousy and strife frequently took the form of personal attacks on the characters of the editors in the respective papers, and if half of the charges made in the pages of the *Pioneer* and *Mail* during those years are true, both Willits and Piper should have been occupants of a state criminal institution. But as time flies swiftly by, it softens the asperities of life, and, reading the story from a distance, forgetting the highly

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charged atmosphere and aroma of passion and antagonism, we can see much good in both of these men. Their troubles first arose over the conflict as to the final location of the McGregor railroad, afterwards the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It was attempting to change its direction and, passing through Primghar, strike the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad at a point between Alton and Hoppers, thus giving it better selection of lands under its land grant. Primghar encouraged this, as it would bring the track to the county seat and for the same reasons Sheldon wanted it to run farther north, as it in fact later did. A county seat fight or two and other contentions caused periodical renewal of the "warfare."

J. H. Wolf, a veteran of the Civil War, who had arrived in the county in the fall of 1872, to "spy out the land," moved his family to Franklin township, in the spring of 1873. He had always taken a keen interest in county affairs, was a frequent contributor to the columns of the county papers and served as supervisor from 1879 to 1881. In December, 1883, he purchased the *Sanborn Pioneer* from A. G. Willits and began a newspaper career that has continued to the present time, leaving him the Nestor of the newspaper fraternity of the county. As an editor J. H. Wolf has always stood for righteousness and honesty. Frequently his positions have been subject to criticism by some of his patrons, as happens to every newspaper man, but none have ever doubted his sincerity and honesty of purpose. While conducting the *O'Brien County Bell* at Primghar, he had occasion to attack what he considered the extravagances of the board of supervisors, criticising especially their expenditures for county bridges. The attack brought many new subscribers, made him some friends, but antagonized the members of the board and the paper suffered great financial loss in county printing. With the passing of the board that had been attacked, the *Bell* regained its patronage and its campaign eventually won it friends who have increased and multiplied many fold.

In succession, the *Pioneer* passed for a few months under lease to S. L. Sage, who was an experienced newspaper man and who had been engaged in newspaper work for fifty years, mostly in Iowa. Next Will F. Wolf, now publisher of the *Hawarden Chronicle*, had charge of the paper until it was sold to H. E. Wolf, another son of the veteran newspaper man. Later George J. Clark, W. S. Johnson, C. E. Foley and Richard Closson owned and conducted the paper, the latter being present editor and proprietor.

After a short experience as publisher of the *Cherokee Free Press*, F. M. McCormack, familiarly known as "Pomp" McCormack, came to the county in 1878, establishing his home in Sheldon. He was an actor of no

mean ability and employed in various home talent dramatic companies during his many years residence in the county, beginning his first labors in Sheldon in such an enterprise. He was an original, unique character in the pioneer days. First employed as a printer at Sheldon, assisting his brother, B. F. McCormack, in the establishment of the *Sheldon News* in 1879, he continued employment on Sheldon newspapers until 1885, when he began the publication of the *O'Brien County Bell*. The first issues were printed at Sheldon although the paper was published at Primghar. Later the plant was transferred to the county seat, which at that time had no newspaper. Primghar was then in a gloomy and depressed condition, through the removal of many of its citizens to Sanborn and other adjoining towns. Pomp had an old-fashioned Washington hand press. The *Bell* office was in a small building, twelve by eighteen feet in size, the same that is now used as a shoe shop near the southeast corner of the court house square. There was scarcely room to move around, set type and make up his paper. It was the home of the *Bell* for two years. The editor was dubbed the "crank that rings the *Bell*." It was prior to the building of a railroad into Primghar and a very unpromising field for newspaper enterprise. A few years previously there had been an exodus of people and buildings from Primghar to Sanborn, the new town on the Milwaukee Railroad eight miles north. Many buildings were vacant and even residents thought the town had gone "flunk." For several years the building deals had consisted of the tearing down and moving of structures to Sanborn. It had been an age of demolition instead of construction. The *Bell* was thus started and indeed established as a permanent paper under these most discouraging circumstances. Be it said that no town in the county, or the county itself, ever had in an editor more of a booster—each day inside the town, each week in his paper. Pomp could make a boost out of an apparent failure or a joke. He understood the pioneer and early times, and, though often magnifying trifles, he did much in putting heart into the hard situations by his newspaper boosting and humor. For instance, in 1887 Herbert E. Thayer built what is now the pool hall at the southeast corner of the square for an abstract of title and land office. In fact it had been the first building venture since the "exodus." Each week Pomp had a write up, of how Primghar was building up again, one week writing it up as the "building at the southeast corner of the square," the next week as the "building on Main street" and so on from week to week during its building until a casual reader would conclude that the town was rushing in its construction work.

The engraved head, suggestive of a birdseye view of the county, with the name *O'Brien County Bell* in large letters across its top border, so familiar to the readers of the *Bell*, illustrates Pomp's original booster cleverness. The whiskered man in the lower right hand corner is a very good picture of old Adam Towberman, who was one of the oldest settlers, among the homestead crowd of the early seventies and who built the bridges (not the early fraudulent ones) for fifteen years of the genuine early bridge building of the county. A familiar figure in the county, he brought in nearly if not quite all the early trees first planted and which comprise what are now the groves. It was "Old Towb" that Pomp was putting in that head plate. Each town of the county is intended to be shown in the picture, with the enterprising telephone lines bringing in the news to the paper. It was in June, 1886, that Pomp brought to the senior editor of this history his sketch of the proposed heading. His idea was that that bell there ringing and suspended over "Pringhar, the Capitol of O'Brien County, Iowa," sounded forth Pringhar and the county with a boost and placed them "on the map." This heading would "dress the stage" of the county, as he put it. The *O'Brien County Bell* has now for twenty-eight years handed down an eccentric and indeed a practical heading with an idea of its enterprise for all time to that paper. At one time Pomp got his old Washington hand press out of his office, set it up on a wagon, attached behind several large farm machines, including a threshing separator, hitched four horses to the outfit, got all the cow bells and tin pans and noisy articles in town and with the frisky boys all ringing them went round and round the court house square, with one big bell over the press on the wagon. The "Crank of the Bell" was ringing the bell.

McCormack had many streaks of eccentricity and triviality which neutralized his fine boosting qualities and left him anything but a financial success. He could entertain a crowd of twenty sidewalk listeners and keep them roaring with laughter, but with the final remark, "what was it all about anyway?" Nevertheless he established firmly one of the substantial newspapers of the county now for so many years under the management of Jacob H. Wolf, assisted by his two sons, Bert and Fred. Pomp was an inveterate practical joker, wit and humorist. On one occasion he ran in the canvass for county recorder, but was defeated. Called on for a speech, he nobly rose to the occasion and made one of the wittiest ever heard in the county. It could not be pictured in print. It was distinctly "Pomp" in its originality and good humor, given at a time when bitterness of defeat might

have soured the ordinary speaker. His career as an actor was always manifest in his every action; he never was caught off his guard and always studied the effect of his speech and action. For many years he joined the business of auctioneer with his newspaper activities.

It has been said of "Pomp" that he "runs a paper in just that way and manner which commends itself to the editor." He was certainly original, if not erratic in his methods. He delighted in extravagant statement and the unusual method of presenting his news. Never a financial success, he worked hard for the best interests of his community and continually made sacrifices therefor. While his methods did not always bring the result intended, no one ever doubted his loyalty to his home town. After disposing of his paper in 1894 to Wolf & Gravenor, he established a paper in Primghar in competition, but the project received but little support and quickly perished. Later he was for a short time in the newspaper business at Hartley, publishing the *Hartley Journal*. Later he conducted a paper at Claremont, Minnesota, and afterwards removed to Wyoming, where he now resides.

Under the management of Wolf & Gravenor, the *Bell* assumed a standing in the community it never before had. Its new proprietors were experienced business men, Mr. Wolf having been a printer in his early life in Pennsylvania and later conducting the newspaper at Sanborn and having been well known in the county through his newspaper work and political activities. Mr. Gravenor was not long actively connected with the business, his interests being represented by his son, and he soon disposed of his share to H. E. Wolf, a son of J. H. J. H. Wolf & Son continued the publication of the *Bell* and the *Sanborn Pioneer* for some two years, when the *Pioneer* was sold to George J. Clark and H. E. Wolf withdrew from the control of the *Bell* and his father, in a sole ownership, assisted by his sons Fred B. and Bert Wolf, has continued the publication.

For nearly thirty years, the *Bell* has been an active factor in politics and a leading paper in the county. Located at the county seat, it has had a prestige and chance to secure the news that especially interests the taxpayer of the county and it has always been keen to secure that news and disseminate to its readers the actual condition and conduct of the administration of county business as well as chronicle the news of the community. Its criticisms of public officials and wrong doers has caused it to form some enemies and temporarily, at least, to suffer some financial loss, but it long ago earned the reputation for honesty and fearless publication of the news that has earned it hosts of friends.

In December, 1879, the *O'Brien Pioneer*, at Primghar, met its first close competition. Cleveland J. Reynolds arrived and established the *Primghar Tribune*, a seven-column folio. The paper was loudly heralded as an advocate for the correction of evils in the conduct of county business, announced reform with a big "R" and began an expose of the crookedness and rascality of the early county officials. In its first issues it began publishing an abstract of the proceedings of the county supervisors, exposing the iniquitous contracts and devious methods that had been used in filching money from the county treasury. In April, 1880, the paper was turned over to Caleb G. Bundy, a versatile writer and experienced newspaper man, who ably conducted the paper until 1882. The policy of the paper was soon shown to be vigorously in favor of objection to the county indebtedness that had been saddled on the actual settlers by the grafting bogus settlers who had organized the county. We believe that this is the only paper in the county outside of the *Sheldon Eagle* that openly advocated the defeat of the debt. In 1881 the county refunded its indebtedness and Bundy's policy was defeated and the paper passed out of existence. Bundy, however, immediately commenced the publication and printing of a newspaper entitled the *Primghar Times*. This was not properly supported, however, and on September 28, 1882, the paper was moved to Paullina, giving the town its first paper, under the title of *Paullina Times*. For a time Bundy & Thonias published it and Oscar D. Hamstreet, a lawyer and graduate of the State University, who had grown tired of illy paid practice of law, secured control of the paper in September, 1883. He continued its publication for about ten years, being succeeded by Frank M. Bethel and later by the present owner, A. W. McBride. Mr. Hamstreet conducted a good paper and was a thorough newspaper man. Mr. Bethel, who succeeded him, was a practical printer, a forceful writer, honest and blunt in his opinions and not always possessed of that tact in expression of opinion that might bring greater revenue to the paper. In August, 1909, he removed to Oregon, where he is engaged in newspaper work. Mr. McBride, the present owner and editor, is fearless in the discharge of his duty, rather pert and plain in the expression of his opinions, making some enemies by so doing. He has a fine literary style, witty in his comments and has good talent. Under his management the *Times* stands for everything clean and uplifting and for good morals, good citizenship. The experiment of starting an opposition paper in Paullina was tried by R. Jeff Taylor in 1912. His paper, the *Paullina Star*, proved a failure and was soon abandoned.

In 1893 M. H. Galer, an unsuccessful exponent of religious preaching,

proved his incompetence in another line by attempting to publish a paper known as the *Primghar Republican*. It was quickly sold to E. R. Little, the compositor employed by Galer, and the new publisher gave up the effort before the end of the year.

The *Democrat*, established in Primghar by H. B. Waite in 1896, has been able to maintain a varied existence. Waite had formerly been a school teacher, had considerable ability as a writer, but very little business judgment, and had a propensity for extravagant statement. His business life in Primghar was strewn with frequent personal encounters, bitterness and bickerings and he finally moved to Seattle, where he now resides. During his conduct of the *Democrat* he engaged in a newspaper contest with the *Sheldon Mail*, in which he filed a larger list of subscribers than the *Mail*. The contest was before the county supervisors and was held to determine the right to publish official board proceedings and receive pay for the county printing. The *Mail* was unable to prove the *Democrat* list fraudulent and the *Democrat* won the contest, at a great expense to both parties. Later J. A. Graham, F. A. Vaughan and Ira Borland were successively connected with the paper. Mr. Borland, the present editor and publisher, is a good mechanic, was a resident of the county some twenty years ago and has returned to show his ability. He is publishing a good clean paper, typographically well printed and with a good strong editorial policy and keen eye for news. He will no doubt do much to make the *Democrat* a paper with a strong subscription list and of influence in the community.

The *Mail* was established in Sheldon by Col. L. B. Raymond, of Cherokee, in January, 1873, six months after the establishment of the village at that place and at a time, when, as its editor later stated, "Sheldon's inhabitants might be enumerated by counting your fingers." This was Colonel Raymond's second newspaper venture in the county, his previous experience having been in connection with the *Pioneer* at Old O'Brien. The paper at Sheldon was soon sold to D. A. W. Perkins, the pioneer attorney of the county, who later took in a partner. In September, 1874, it was sold to Frank T. Piper and in three months he sold to J. F. Glover. Glover had changed the name of the publication in January, 1875, to that of *Sheldon Republic*. In March it was published by Glover and a partner by name of W. B. Reed and so continued till August, 1875, when F. T. Piper regained ownership, restored the paper to its original name and continued the publication as the *Sheldon Mail* until his death in 1902.

Frank T. Piper was a thoroughly practical newspaper man, well versed

in the technical art of printing, a good mechanic, an excellent business man and financier, a vigorous editorial writer and energetic news gatherer. In the county there have been more polished writers, deeper thinkers, men with more loveable dispositions, and many who in various single details excelled Frank Piper in their newspaper work, but during the entire history of the county there have been none who can show such a long period of continued newspaper success and so great financial returns for their efforts as this man. Active in politics, influential in the councils of his chosen political party—the Republican—he was a man to be reckoned with in every political contest and feared and loved as the life of the aspirant for political honors measured up to the *Mail's* standard of honesty. He was certainly in his element as a newspaper man and made the *Mail* a success in every way from the start. He wielded a wide influence in politics and made money. His reputation as a newspaper man was state wide, the *Mail* ranking with the best weekly newspapers in the state. Mr. Piper's aggressive combativeness made him a good many enemies, but these, with his many friends, will think rather of his ability and merits. He was prominent in county politics—his support being sought after and his opposition feared. He held many offices, among them mayor of Sheldon and postmaster at the same place. He was at one time candidate for state senator and his county loyally supported him, but he failed to secure the nomination. He was many times a delegate to legislative, senatorial, congressional and state conventions of the Republican party. His ability to attract business to his paper was phenomenal. While his paper was published he never lacked advertising patronage. His methods of securing business were sure and effectual. His columns were always well patronized and his subscription lists grew. Never while he published the *Mail* did any paper in the county exceed it in its list of subscribers. At all times he had the best equipped printing office in the county. Prior to 1878 advertised lists of lands in this county to be sold for taxes had been set up in Des Moines or Sioux City, printed as a supplement and included in the regular editions of the paper. Clouds of doubt as to validity of these tax sales had been cast by such methods, as it was uncertain whether it was a legitimate publication under the provisions of the law, but the entire matter, seven columns in length, was set up in the *Mail* office and printed in the regular edition of the *Mail* for that year. By 1880 he had a one-thousand-two-hundred-dollar power printing press and that was considered a marvel of mechanics in those days. In 1881, during the continued hard winter, when for weeks at a time the rail-

roads were blockaded and when the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul did not run a train into Sheldon for nearly three months, the paper suffered for "print" paper to get out its edition. Telegrams sent to Sioux City brought reply from Perkins Brothers: "Haven't a bundle of print in the house. God help us." St. Paul telegraphed that no express company would accept shipments for the snow bound district and in March, 1881, the paper was compelled to issue to its subscribers two editions of limited size, printed on brown paper. In January, 1898, to relieve himself of some of the burden of printing office work, Mr. Piper took into the business C. P. Miller and Win S. Ayers, who had been associated with him in the mechanical department of the paper, and the business was incorporated under the name of Piper, Miller & Ayers. Later, after the death of Mr. Piper, the business was continued by his son, R. B. Piper, with whom was associated J. E. Wyckoff and conducted under the corporate name of Mail Printing Company. Enlargements of the mechanical department and addition of expensive equipment did not prove a profitable investment and the business was finally disposed of to C. M. Stearns. Later it was transferred to C. O. Button and W. A. Eddington, the former having active charge of the conduct of the paper. By special campaigns he greatly increased the subscription list and sold the paper in 1913 to Paul C. Woods, who is its present publisher.

The *Sanborn Journal* was conducted by Warren Walker and R. F. Hiler from 1886 to 1889. Mr. Walker, referred to in the chapter on the legal profession, was a hard worker and gave some attention to the editorial conduct of the paper, but the mechanical work was under the supervision of Mr. Hiler. The paper showed considerable enterprise and at one time published an elaborate sketch of the business interest of and exploited the advantages of O'Brien county, fully illustrating the edition with cuts of the court house, pictures of the county officials, etc.

B. F. McCormack, the versatile founder of the *Sanborn Sun* and original editor of the *O'Brien Pioneer*, who had been an active participant in the conduct of county business for many years during its early struggle for existence and shared with the early pioneers in the sorrows and joys and profits and losses of that early experience, made his second newspaper venture in Sheldon in 1879. He had been immediately prior to that date conducting a hardware store in Sheldon and the new paper, denominated the *News*, was first published in the second story of the building occupied by his hardware store. His brother, F. M. McCormack, and Gus Satterlee, a

former employe of the *Sheldon Mail*, assisted in the conduct of the paper, which was sold soon afterward to J. F. Ford, an experienced newspaper man who came from Spencer, Iowa. Later Lon F. Chapin secured an interest and he and Ford continued the conduct of the paper until 1885. Ford was a good newspaper man and Chapin a perfect gentleman, a polished writer and successful publisher. Later he was connected with a newspaper at Sibley, at Rock Rapids, and Pasadena, California, finally retiring and engaging in the raising of oranges in the Golden state.

The *Sheldon Eagle*, established by Creglow & Reynolds in 1889, has had several owners. B. H. Perkins was connected with the paper from 1891 to 1894 and again in 1896. George L. Nelson was in charge in 1894. Later the *Eagle* was owned by J. H. Oates. Col. M. B. Darnell, probably the most talented, educated and finished writer ever living in the county, was a frequent contributor and editorial writer. Colonel Darnell was later connected with the *Sheldon Sun*. He was a surviving soldier of the Civil War, had rendered valiant service in the Union army and was a resident of the county since 1883. His editorial writings raised the newspaper to its highest level of literary worth in the history of the county and when he dropped the editorial pen the county lost one of its best writers. He was a man of broad knowledge, high ideals and a command of language and literary style that attracted attention to his paper among the newspapers of the state.

The *Sheldon Gazette* was established by W. H. Noyes in 1895. Noyes had formerly been in the employ of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company at Sheldon, and left there to hold the office of recorder of the county at Primghar residing there for ten years. After leaving the recorder's office he conducted a store at Primghar and was later elected sheriff, holding that office four years. The *Sheldon Gazette* venture did not long endure and Noyes took the plant to Pine county, Minnesota, where he conducted a newspaper, was elected a member of the state Legislature, and later established a paper at Birchwood, Wisconsin. He is now in the newspaper business at Winter, Wisconsin, his son "Tommy" being his business partner.

The *Sanborn Sun*, the third paper established in the county by B. F. McCormack, first saw the light of day at Sanborn. As usual with the McCormack papers, it was erratic, caustic and sensational. McCormack had his own way of entertaining his readers each week and was not dependent upon news items to furnish entertainment. The paper was finally moved to Sheldon, its subscription price raised from ten cents a year to fifty cents per

annum and later to standard newspaper price. The paper met with varying success under the management of H. A. Carson, J. H. Oates, H. K. Fortuin, passing through a receivership conducted by A. J. Walsmith, the Sheldon attorney, and was sold May 1, 1907, to Hamilton & Bartz. It had been published part of the time as a daily and Hamilton & Bartz conducted it so for about six months, when it was returned to a weekly edition and has proven a great financial success, taking a leading position among the papers of the county. Bert Hamilton, the senior partner, is an experienced newspaper man, having been engaged in newspaper work in this county and at Northwood, Iowa, for thirty years. Under his wise policy and careful management the paper has been established where its power as representing the broadest and best policy of a Republican newspaper is fully established. Mr. Bartz, who was associated with Mr. Hamilton for some six years, retired in 1913 and the paper is now owned by Hamilton & Son.

John Whiting for a time conducted a newspaper at Sheldon, which was later transformed into a farm journal, but, proving a financial failure, it soon succumbed to the inevitable.

An old newspaper plant owned at one time by Ira Brasheers and used for the conduct of a paper at Sanborn, was purchased at mortgage sale and later used for publication of the *Cycle*, by "Quad Line" Kernan. Kernan was formerly of the Okalona, Mississippi, *Southern States*, the famous mouthpiece of the Southern Confederacy. The *Cycle* contained a noisy political department and achieved a reputation for dissension and strife, but had an ephemeral existence. Kernan is said to have recently died in Kansas in a county poor house. He was brilliant in his talents, but misdirected their application.

The first newspaper at Hartley, the *Record*, began publication in June, 1884, with T. E. Cole as editor. He was a good printer and a bright editor. After about a year the paper was leased to Allen Crossan, who had previously been employed as teacher in the public schools there. He conducted the paper for a year, purchased it and continued it for three years more and re-sold it to Mr. Cole. Will Dunn later secured a half interest in it and in 1891 C. H. Crawford, who had closed a two-year service as county superintendent of schools, took charge of the paper. In 1894 he sold to Claude Charles. The latter changed its name to the *Hartley Journal*. Later the paper was sold to F. M. McCormack, then leased to Ray Gleason, formerly of the *Sutherland Republican*, then sold to Irving A. Dove, who conducted it till 1910 when it was sold to its present owner, Eugene B. Peck.

A second paper in Hartley, the *News*, established by G. R. Gregg in 1895, lasted just ninety days and perished. The printing material used in its publication was purchased in July, 1896, by Allen Crossan, who sold it to George F. Robb.

C. A. Charles returned to Hartley in 1912 and began publication of the *Sentinel*.

Harvey Hand, the first newspaper publisher in Sutherland, commenced publication of the *Courier* in 1882, quickly sold to C. H. Brintnall in November, 1882. Brintnall conducted the paper till the spring of 1884, when he sold to Bert Hamilton, who had been living at Sutherland for some time previously and connected with the paper. Hamilton was an expert printer and newspaper man and wielded a large influence in county politics, proving a forceful writer and active Republican. For many years he has been actively connected with the Republican county organization. In September, 1893, he sold the paper to W. H. Bloom. The latter was a fine writer, a gentleman and profound thinker, but a poor business man. His health failed and he died in 1904. His wife continued the conduct of the paper with marked ability until the end of 1905, when the plant was sold to A. G. Warren. Warren conducted it for three years and it was successively sold to Mort E. Nicol, G. H. Vos, Joe A. Moore and finally, in March, 1910, to Sam S. Sherman. The latter was a man who immediately made his impress on the political complexion of the county. Stubborn and persistent and positive in his opinions, he brooked no deviation from his expressed determinations and many are the newspaper controversies stirred up by him. A bright writer, and finally a true blue "Bull Mooser" in his political affiliations, he retired in November, 1913, leaving a fame that will not soon die.

J. N. Slick, for thirty years a merchant in Sutherland, and his son-in-law, McFarland, succeeded to the paper and are now publishing a clean sheet, all home print and full of local news.

The *Review*, and later the *Republican*, were other Sutherland papers of ephemeral existence. Ray Gleason, Fred Pratt and G. E. Hirleman were connected with these publications.

In 1906 D. H. Murphy established the *Calumet Clipper*, which was of short life. The *Independent*, established by Lloyd Harris in 1912, was sold to M. M. Wagner in 1913 and is now conducted by M. B. Royer.

The *Woman's Standard*, published in the interest of the political rights of women, was conducted by Roma W. Woods at Sutherland during the years 1897 and 1898. Mrs. Woods has been a frequent contributor to the

county papers, active in the organization of woman's clubs and assisting in the conduct thereof. She is highly educated, talented, a ready writer and attractive in her newspaper style. Under her conduct the *Standard* attracted considerable attention and was a strong force in establishing recognition of the cause it espoused. The paper was the official organ of the Iowa Woman's Suffrage Association.

On this March 10, 1914, just as this history is ready to go to press, the first number of a daily newspaper named the *Daily Sheldon Record* is issued and published by the Sheldon Printing and Publishing Company and conducted by Bruce A. Truman as editor. It is Democratic in politics. It is an eight-page seven-column paper, all in ample proportions. This is not, however, the first attempt at a daily paper in the county. B. F. McCormack issued the *Sheldon Sun* for a short time as a daily. While it had eight pages, it was but a small folder of three columns per page. Mr. McCormack himself humorously referred to it as his "Daily Postage Stamp."

CHAPTER XXI.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF O'BRIEN COUNTY.

By W. R. Brock, M. D.

The history of any community whose civilization rises distinctly above barbarism is not complete unless there is contained within its pages a short historical chapter written upon medicine and surgery.

The first physicians who came to O'Brien county to live came in the year 1873. They came into the hardships of pioneer life with two objects in view. The first was to acquire land by homesteading, and the second was to care for the sick while they were acquiring title to their lands.

The physicians who practiced medicine in the early seventies were not the first physicians on record, for the art of treating the sick as a distinct business has been followed for about twenty-three hundred years. But nowhere does the world record greater hardships upon the practitioner of medicine than those recorded of O'Brien county's early physicians. In 1873 there was not a post nor tree and only occasionally a faint trail to act as a guide to the physician as he made distant visits to the sick in storms of rain and snow by day and by night. Dr. C. Longshore, who now resides in Sheldon, hale and hearty, and who was one of the first two physicians in O'Brien county, had, many times, to get out of his buggy at night and get down on his hands and knees to see if he could feel with his hands some faint trail of a wagon or buggy wheel that he might make a better guess as to where he was or which way he was going. When there was sickness in some far distant shack it required a brave heart to storm the weather or the darkness to go after the doctor and it required an equally brave heart upon the part of the doctor to make the professional visit. One of the greatest heroisms recorded in pioneer days was that of Dr. Edwin Hornibrook when, in the blockade of 1880, he made a visit to a patient in Sanborn from Cherokee and returned, a distance of nearly seventy miles, which he made afoot upon snow shoes, traveling over snow banks twice deeper than his own length. If those explorers who waged hazardous expeditions in quest for the North and South poles could have selected their parties from such men as the early pioneer doctors of northwestern Iowa they certainly would not have lacked heroism for any possible undertaking. Those doctors were

brave and true. They fought bravely many battles and lost frequently to the enemy. In those dark days of O'Brien county, when diphtheria invaded so many homes and left the father and mother without a child out of large families, the pioneer physician stood by, doing all that could be done in those days, but absolutely helpless to cure the disease or stay its contagion. Every physician had "a treatment" and every treatment was ineffectual until science gave in 1894 another of its choice gems to the world in the form of antitoxin for diphtheria. Ask any pioneer doctor what days were the darkest to him as he looks backward upon those early times, and he will forget about his own hardship, about the blizzards and the rain storms and the nights of darkness, of wandering about the prairies unable to find the patient's house or his own way home; he will forget about all this and answer that his darkest days were those in which whole families were wiped out with diphtheria while he stood by unable to stay the hand of death. But there is a brighter side to the history of O'Brien county's pioneer physicians. If the mountains and the sea have their glories, their pre-eminence and their fascinations, so did the early prairie of O'Brien county. Prairie is a French word and means meadow. The word sounds harmoniously poetic and is filled with euphonious splendor. About all the physician was required to do to own one-fourth section or a section of this beautiful prairie was to look at it, admire it and say, "this is mine." Then he owned a "solemn mile of prairie, a four square block of God's out-of-doors with the height of the sky above it, and the depth of the world beneath it, and the radiancy of dawns and sunsets shed over it, and the dim dawn of dusks enfolded it like a blessed compassion—a mile east, a mile west, a mile north, a mile south—and all the time to be tramping on your own grass and breathing air brewed on your ground and lifting head into your own sky and gazing at your own firmament; bless me, this is plutocracy!" These prairies were laden with abundance of wild game, which the enterprising doctor could supply his table with during the most of the year. In early spring the black-breasted wild pigeons in millions were here. The prairie plover and long billed snipe; ducks and geese in spring and fall almost darkened the sky. But the classic game was the prairie chicken. In mid-summer and early fall the prairie of O'Brien county contained carloads of prairie chicken. There was much in the land of the prairie to brighten the life of the pioneer physician of O'Brien county. But let us hasten on, for the prairie and the pioneer physician have disappeared; and while the prairie has been transfigured beyond recognition into domestic gardens and fields, so also has the practice of medicine in the same

period of time undergone a sublime transition. If the doctor of forty years ago could awaken today to the technical advancement of medicine and surgery he would feel much as a Rip Van Winkle victimized by the slumbering of a thousand years. The science and art of obstetrics have kept pace in progress with the other branches of medicine. No longer do we look with mysterious ignorance upon a parturient patient distressed with high fever and abdominal tenderness and bloating that was thought to be due to "taking cold" or something "mysteriously wrong within." But we know now that this is an infection from without, that has been introduced within by the patient, her attendants or her physician. And if there is a man in O'Brien county today practicing medicine who does not know enough to prepare his hands clean enough to use in an appendix operation, he is a disgrace to the medical profession and to the age in which he is living and ought to be compelled to retire from the practice of obstetrics. Cleanliness, especially in obstetrics, is next to godliness and the physician who lacks in this regard is an enemy to progress and human happiness. The skilful handling of instrumental cases of parturition together with modern management of profuse hemorrhage have robbed parturition of nearly all of its former horrors. The management of the patient during the ten days following is also a marked improvement worthy as a part of the evolution of the times. Surgery, since 1873, has made a marvelous advancement and to those who are wide awake to its possibilities, it seems much in advance of other branches of medicine. Yet internal medicine is forging rapidly to the front. The methods of general management of the sick, the attention given to the selection of proper diet, and efficient nourishment and assisting nature in the process of eliminating the toxins of the body which are always present in the diseased system, together with other hygienies are important phases of treating the sick that make the physicians of today superior to those who have labored in the past. Microscopical examinations of the tissues and bodily excretions and secretions and more improved chemical analysis of the same agents, the great value of the X-ray and modern instruments of precision were not known by the earlier physicians of O'Brien county. Neither had they learned of the value of antitoxic serums that are used with great success today in the treatment of many of the infectious diseases.

The idea of hospitals for the treatment of the sick has been growing in O'Brien county, but not so rapidly as it should grow. Four enterprising and ambitious physicians of O'Brien county have ventured each with a hospital. Hence there are five hospitals in O'Brien county at the present time. One

in Calumet, two in Sheldon and two in Hartley. However, they are small institutions, not of general or public significance, but merely of individual and personal moment. It is a reflection upon civil government, local, county, state and national, that any physician should feel compelled to construct or prepare a building for hospital purposes, for this is a burden of large proportions that should be shouldered by the proper agency, and that agency is the general public. It would be pitifully dramatic to see an educator constructing a school building in which to educate the young, a minister of the gospel to build his own church in which to deliver his own sermons, or the attorney erecting a court house in which to try his own jury cases. And yet this is about the procedure that has been undertaken by the physician. But if the private hospital is excusable or defensible just to that extent will it point the public to its duty in housing and attending the sick and defenseless and those in need of charitable protection. O'Brien county at the present time is the garden spot of the world and is fairly teeming with wealth and prosperity and there is no good reason why O'Brien county should not erect and equip a suitable hospital in Sheldon, one in Sanborn, one in Hartley, one in Pringhar, one in Sutherland and one in Panllina, where all the sick and helpless of the county could be housed and attended under the most favorable conditions and where every physician would have equal opportunities in attending the sick and not being either vexed mentally or financially by the management of a hospital or deprived of the advantages that a public hospital affords. A great many operations in the past and many operations at present are done in the patient's home. Some of these operations are decidedly major and of a serious nature and in fact they were beyond surgical skill and knowledge of a quarter century ago, and yet the results of these operations at home are equally as good as those obtained in many of the hospitals of the country.

During 1914 the following physicians and surgeons at Sheldon united in establishing a second hospital at Sheldon and have already procured a suitable hospital building, which was opened for service September 1, 1914: Dr. W. R. Brock, Dr. W. H. Myers, Dr. Frank Myers, Dr. Roy Myers and Dr. H. J. Brackney. They have placed the same under the management of the Seventh-Day Adventists or Battle Creek system of hospital service. The new hospital at Pringhar donated by George Ward has likewise been taken over by the same management. O'Brien county now has five hospitals, namely: Dr. Cram's hospital at Sheldon; Dr. Hand's hospital at Hartley; Dr. C. L. Seiver's hospital at Calumet and the two hospitals already named.

The first successful attempt to organize a medical association in O'Brien county was in the year 1903 at Primghar. This society is known as The O'Brien County Medical Society. This society, because of the conditions upon which it was formed, became a component part of the Iowa State Medical Association and the American Medical Association. Without becoming first a member of the county society a physician cannot become a member of either the Iowa State Medical Association or the American Medical Association. The charter members of the O'Brien County Medical Society numbered twelve and one half of these are practicing now in the county. The charter members of this society are as follows: Dr. A. L. Bushby, Dr. F. E. Brown, Dr. W. R. Brock, Dr. F. W. Cram, Dr. E. Dudley, Dr. Little, Dr. B. S. Louthan, Dr. W. H. Meyers, Dr. C. B. Rentz, Dr. H. C. Rogers, Dr. H. Scott and Dr. Stewart. This society meets three or four times a year and has developed into a very good organization and is very active in its society work.

Those who have registered at the county seat to practice medicine in O'Brien county are as follows:

Avery, Milo, graduate Rush Medical, registered in 1887.

Avery, Harold, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, registered 1910.

Brackney, H. J., Iowa University, registered 1905.

Beebe, A. J., school not given, registered 1880.

Bonham, John, school not given, registered 1886.

Brewer, L. S., school not given, registered 1896.

Brock, W. R., Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons, registered 1895.

Briggs, F. J., school not given, registered 1880.

Burstien, Louis L., Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons, registered 1908.

Barnhizer, J. G., college not given, registered 1898.

Bushby, A. L., college not given, registered 1899.

Conway, John W., Iowa College of Physicians and Surgeons, 1886.

Cushman, R. A., Dartmouth College, registered 1888.

Childs, Mary E., college not given, registered 1891.

Canter, S. J., college not given, registered 1892.

Cram, F. W., Rush Medical, registered 1888.

Crider, J. J., college not given, registered 1897.

Coleman, F. J., Sioux City College of Medicine, registered 1910

Collet, C. C., college not given, registered 1902.

Dndley, E., college not given, registered 1886.

- Dougherty, Wm., college not given, registered 1887.
Daily Milton, Hammond University, registered 1896.
Elliott, Thos. B., college not given, registered 1894.
Engle, Carl, school not given, registered 1889.
Eddy, A. H., college not given, registered 1897.
English, Belle, school not given, registered 1890.
Eger, Christian, college not given, registered 1901.
Ehlers, F. S., Northwestern University, registered 1905.
Esser, Wm., school not given, registered 1891.
Egent, Philip M., school not given, registered 1887.
Field, L. S., school not given, registered 1901.
Fletcher, D. A., school not given, registered 1902.
Gannon, W. T., school not given, registered 1890.
Gleystein, R. J., Rush Medical, registered 1907.
Gilliland, C. E., University of Kansas, 1913.
Horton, W. H., school not given, registered 1893.
Harrison, Geo. E., school not given, registered 1891.
Horton, F. W., Iowa University, registered 1894.
Harrison, J. C., school not given, registered 1891.
Hume, J. H., school not given, registered 1887.
Hamilton, W. A., school not given, registered 1899.
Hand, W. C., college not given, registered 1906.
Hollenbeck, Frank B., Rush Medical, registered 1890.
Hollenbeck, F. D., Rush Medical, registered 1906.
Howard, W. A., Northwestern University, registered 1908.
Hopkins, A. G., school not given, registered 1894.
Knipper, John, school not given, registered 1907.
Kuffman, Frank E., school not given, registered 1897.
Knox, Thos. C., Iowa University, registered 1908.
Kass, Thos. D., Wisconsin University, registered 1909.
Kelly, M. D., non-graduate, registered 1900.
Lonthan, B. S., University of Iowa, registered 1886.
Longshore, C., school not given, registered 1880.
Louthan, J. M., University of Iowa, registered 1886.
Lanning, H. J., school not given, registered 1880.
Leary, J. S., University of Michigan, registered 1887.
Longshore, Anna Mary, college not given, registered 1891.
Long, J. M., school not given, registered 1887.

- Lewis, W. H., school not given, registered 1887.
Landis, H. F., school not given, registered 1907.
Little, W. G., Rush Medical, registered 1902.
Myers, C. H., school not given, registered 1887.
McCormick, Chas., college not given, registered 1888.
McDonald, John, school not given, registered 1890.
Mueller, C. P., school not given, registered 1892.
Masters, school not given, registered 1892.
Murphy, T. W., University of Iowa, registered 1903.
Miller, G. E., College of Physicians and Surgeons, registered 1905.
Myers, W. H., Rush Medical, registered 1889.
Myers, Frank L., Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, registered 1888.
Nichols, Frank L., school not given, registered 1901.
Oldag, Geo. C., University of Iowa, registered 1912.
Paul, C. S., school not given, registered 1886.
Parker, E. W., school not given, registered 1886.
Perley, Geo. P., school not given, registered 1893.
Page, C. V., University of Iowa, registered 1904.
Phelps, C. E., University of Iowa, registered 1910.
Peck, N. L. F., school not given, registered 1883.
Roepke, G. S., school not given, registered 1898.
Rogers, H. C., College of Physicians and Surgeons, Chicago, registered 1898.
Relihan, H. G., Northwestern Medical, registered 1911.
Richardson, E. E., University of Iowa, registered 1898.
Rantz, C. B., Rush Medical, registered 1901.
Searles, F. L., school not given, registered 1887.
Smith, Chas., school not given, registered 1887.
Stewart, D. T., Rush Medical, registered 1887.
Seeley, W. A., school not given, registered 1890.
Smith, E. E., school not given, registered 1892.
Sigworth, D. L., school not given, registered 1893.
Scott, H., University of Edinburgh, registered 1894.
Star, O. F., University of Iowa, registered 1897.
Struble, Andrew, school not given, registered 1897.
Sheafer, E. W., school not given, registered 1883.
Strong, E. J., school not given, registered 1881.
Smith, N. S., school not given, registered 1893.

- Steele, J. F., school not given, registered 1898.
 Schwabland, W. T., school not given, registered 1904.
 Sievers, C. L., Sioux City Medical College, registered 1904.
 Shellensenberger, E. S., Chicago College of Medicine, registered 1907.
 Stewart, C. E., Sioux City College of Medicine, registered 1908.
 Sherlock, J. H., Indiana Medical College, registered 1910.
 Simon, John, Chicago College of Physicians and Surgeons, registered 1911.
 Sherbon, J. B., Iowa University, registered 1912.
 Stoner, A. P., school not given, registered 1891.
 Trover, U. U., school not given, registered 1894.
 Twining, E. T., Chicago Medical, registered 1896.
 Viers, S. M., school not given, registered 1886.
 VanDun, E. K., school not given, registered 1897.
 Warren, C. T., school not given, registered 1887.
 Woodcock, W. P., school not given, registered 1887.
 Werick, H. A., school not given, registered 1889.
 Wilcox, C., school not given, registered 1889.
 Womeldorf, J. M., school not given, registered 1897.
 Wheeler, Fred, school not given, registered 1901.
 Wight, W. G., University of Iowa, registered 1901.
 West, C. C., school not given, registered 1880.

I cannot close this chapter without congratulating the laity upon its intellectual improvement relative to things medical. Fads and fancies, ignorance and superstition are rapidly being replaced by a decent sort of common sense and this adds aid and pleasure to the work of honest and intelligent physicians. Harder and harder will it become for charlatans, quacks and half educated doctors to thrive parasitically upon the ignorance of the people, for this too "shall pass away." It was not many years ago that physicians were graduated in two or three years and this short course resulted in one physician to every five hundred and twenty population in United States. Through a demand by the physicians, which extended throughout the entire country, for a longer and a higher plan of training and education for the physician, the matriculation in medical colleges has been suddenly and greatly reduced. Not only this, but a great many medical colleges have been unable to meet this great demand and have merged with other medical institutions or gone completely out of business. Dartmouth, the fourth oldest medical school in America, could not meet the demands and no longer teaches medi-

cine and surgery. It is calculated that in 1827 there will be only one physician to every two thousand two hundred population, where now there is one physician to every five hundred and twenty people in the country. This scarcity of physicians will be due to medical colleges discontinuing their work and a marked decrease in medical matriculates, and to many of the medical students becoming weary of the long college grind and giving up their medical studies and turning their attention to other work. In these circumstances there will be without doubt a hardship worked upon both the physicians and the public in the future. Hence this age is crying out for young men to enter the medical profession. Young men of noble character and moral worth; men with large mental capacity, strong, brave and true. This class of young men are the ones who are to solve the mighty problems and carry the great responsibility of medicine and surgery in the future. Their work, problems, and responsibilities will be much mightier than ours, the same as ours of today are much greater than those of the past. But let us fear not that these young men will meet the future problems of medicine and surgery, bravely and effectually. And now upon the graves of those physicians who have practiced medicine in O'Brien county and have joined the "great beyond," let us drop a tear and place a flower. To those physicians who in O'Brien county are now "carrying the cross" and "going about doing good," let us extend our gratitude and crown them with our benediction

CHAPTER XXII.

THE CHURCHES OF O'BRIEN COUNTY.

With all the hardships endured by the pioneers of O'Brien county, as a rule they did not forget the duty they owed to God and church life. Of course, it is not to be supposed that all the old pioneers were of any one Christian faith, but large numbers of those first settlers were members of the various religious denominations, and upon coming to the wilds of this county they did not leave their religion behind them, but early sought out such churches as were found in their midst or assisted in organizing new ones. The Methodist Episcopal church was immediately on the ground, as in most new countries the first to organize, and were zealous in establishing churches in this faith in various parts of the county. The other churches effected organization as rapidly as a sufficient number of any one faith could get together. It was peculiarly appropriate to the pioneer idea that the first church building was built of prairie sod. The several churches in the county will be reviewed in their several localities.

METHODISM IN O'BRIEN COUNTY.

It perhaps can be truly said that Methodism is established permanently in by far a large majority of the cities, towns and hamlets in the whole United States. This church now has its home in every township in this county, as it also now has its modern church building in practically every town. "The world is my parish," is the text of Methodism. One great strength of this church lies in the fact that it is evangelistic. Another main strength of this great church lies in its itinerant system. This, in effect, means that every church has a pastor and every pastor has a church. The church conferences are so decisive in the management of its details that the church thus sees to it that these two results are carried out. "A million for missions" was Bishop C. C. McCabe's onward movement slogan, and it was later fully adopted by the whole church itself, which gave much more than a million per year. "Wheresoever two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them," has been literally engrafted

in the spiritual relations of its every church and charge. This church has searched out the lowly among the by-ways and hedges, and made itself felt in the hearts of men, on the mission fields of Africa and Australia, in the palace of Fifth avenue, engaged the attention of those public men in all walks of life that move the nation, its best spiritual uplifts, and adapted itself even in the homestead shanties of northwest Iowa and kindred situations. John Wesley founded pioneer Methodism in pioneer America by coming to America himself. The circuit rider and minister on the smaller charges have adapted themselves with equal religious heroism with the city and metropolitan minister. It may be truly said of Methodism:

"It waited not for dome or spire,
It moved the heart by living fire."

O'Brien county, in its Methodism, has passed through this very circuit-rider period, of the old Peter Cartwright order, as likewise through its building period and the genuine enjoyment of its present modern church edifices now found in each town. The first sermon in the county was preached by a Methodist pioneer local minister. Its first inhabitant, Hannibal H. Waterman, and wife were Methodists, and he an old-fashioned Methodist exhorter.

Inasmuch as these first Methodist activities commenced in O'Brien county prior to its organization as such, even as early as 1858, and moved up through and held services in homestead shacks and shanties and first school houses through the county, with several of those early ministers, like Rev. C. W. Clifton, who, as he recorded in his diary, said, "I traveled three thousand miles and preached one hundred sermons," in 1870 in northwestern Iowa, traveling with single buggy, on horseback, with old-fashioned saddlebags, these sermons being preached in numerous homes and school houses, rounding up as a stationed minister in Primghar in 1878, we must do these old-time conditions credit for not only keeping up the living fires of Methodism, but in holding up true religion among members of other faiths, and there were pioneers of all churches here.

A SOD CHURCH.

As already referred to, the first church in the county was built of the native prairie tough sod, on section 33, in Center township, in the spring of 1871. The homesteaders turned out in a body with their breaking plows and turned up a lot of good tough, thick sod and by united efforts soon had

a sod building of good size, quite in comparison with the homes of those constructing it, and almost without cost, save for a few windows.

A Fourth of July celebration was held in this church in 1871 attended by nearly all the first settlers from seven to ten miles around, it being a basket picnic. Daniel Bysom is the only homesteader still residing in the township on his homestead, who aided in building this church. Oliver Evans, another old homesteader in this township, was present at this celebration. He had just been back to New York and got married and was there with his bride, wearing their wedding clothes. That evening they all repaired to Capt. Robert C. Tiff's homestead shanty and wound up the celebration with a jolly pioneer party. This sod church was built in a manner like the old fashioned "raising bee" in a timbered country, substituting the sod for the logs. It was, however, truly a church edifice. Lunch baskets were brought by these pioneers, but the cannon and firecracker were absent. It was indeed a "sane Fourth," now so much written about. The church and state and pioneer were all represented in real simplicity. Rev. C. W. Clifton, of the Methodist Episcopal church, preached in this sod church during that year, the first sermons with simply the rafters on and the window sash without glass. At this celebration this was the situation, and many old settlers there on that day say it was literally true that Rev. Clifton had nearly as many holes in his clothes and his shoes as there were in the windows and roof of that sod church. It is needless to say that the hearers did not attend with either top buggies, or automobiles, or in broadcloth.

FIRST SERMON PREACHED IN THE COUNTY.

Father James Bicknell preached the first sermon in O'Brien county at Old O'Brien, probably in 1858. He is a Methodist Episcopal local preacher and still living. He resided for many years with his son, J. J. Bicknell, near Peterson in Clay county, and was well known in the early years in that section of the county. He was himself a pioneer of the genuine quality, and fully understood the pioneer life in Iowa.

EARLY METHODISM IN THE COUNTY.

Wherever in the history of the United States the pioneer has built his first hut or shanty, there a Methodist preacher has been on hand ready to preach in private house, hut, school house or sod church, anywhere. We have already given an account of the first sod church, the first settler, and

first sermon, each Methodist. This church, covering the whole pioneer period, will, of necessity, have somewhat the larger space in this chapter, though other churches did a full part as time moved on.

In 1858 a mission was formed known as the Little Sioux mission, extending from Spirit Lake to Cherokee, with Rev. O. S. Wright as pastor and Rev. George Clifford as presiding elder. The appointments were Pilot Rock and Cherokee, in Cherokee county, Long Grove (being Peterson, where the Waterman family first attended), Okoboji and Spirit Lake and other places from time to time. During this year Rev. Wright received forty dollars from the missionary fund and twenty-seven dollars from the brethren on the circuit.

At that time, 1860, there was not even a school house on the entire charge, and services were necessarily held in private houses. Hannibal Waterman attended his services. In 1859-60-61-62 Cherokee and Peterson were left without a supply, but in 1863 were included in the Smithland mission. Rev. Seymour Snyder, during 1863-64, was the regular minister who preached in Old O'Brien. His work extended from up in Minnesota to Peterson. He stated that he preached in two states and seven counties. He carried his Bible, rifle and hymn book as companions and was ready to expound the gospel from each. In 1865 White school house, Beuma Vista, Old O'Brien, Cherokee and Pilot Rock were each supplied by Rev. R. S. Hawks. In 1867 Rev. W. W. Mallory filled the Peterson circuit, which included Old O'Brien, with Rev. W. McCain as presiding elder and Hannibal Waterman as recording steward. William R. Pitt and Rouse B. Crego were licensed to preach at the third quarterly meeting of that year and Mr. Waterman at the fourth. In 1868 and 1869 Rev. Thomas Whitely had pastoral charge of the Peterson circuit, with Rev. J. W. Ladd as presiding elder.

In 1869-70, Rev. C. W. Clifton was the pastor and lived with his family in a loft. A quarterly meeting was held at Old O'Brien October 2, 1869. He then held a protracted meeting. An old record says that there was a "general awakening, but few conversions." A parsonage was undertaken at Old O'Brien, but failed. During this year Rouse B. Crego was compelled to withdraw on account of drunkenness. It was in the record for this year, 1870, that Rev. Clifton makes this entry: "I traveled three thousand miles and preached one hundred sermons." This year Old O'Brien was included in the Fort Dodge district. During the conference year of 1870-71 Old O'Brien was included in the Sioux City district, Des Moines conference, with Rev. Bennett Mitchell as presiding elder. During this year

Rev. Clifton organized a church and class in each of four school houses, namely: Ward's school house, nine members; Rowland's, six members; Husted's six members, and Bascom's, fourteen.

It is difficult to gather from the records the exact times of each pastor, but during years of 1872-73-74 Rev. Clifton and Rev. Lothian preached, and probably Lothian was the regular pastor, and still known as the Peterson circuit. At all events, Rev. Lothian makes this general entry in his church record, "that much good work was done in O'Brien. Quite a number of Methodist people settled near center of county and in 1873 the county seat was moved from O'Brien to a new town called Primghar in the geographical center of the county." This difference of dates of the moving of the county seat probably arises from the fact that the records did not all arrive at once, and this entry was rounded up as the result of a year's work.

During the conference year of 1874-75 Rev. J. E. Cohenour was pastor and took in fifteen members in Center township. A parsonage was begun and paid for except a mortgage for one hundred and forty dollars. The parson recites this truism in the record: "It was a good thing to have the parsonage, but a bad thing to have a debt."

Rev. Charles W. Wiley was sent on for the conference year 1875-76 and forty dollars was paid on the parsonage debt and title to the church lots secured. William Clark Green and James Roberts, who laid out Primghar, donated lots for church purposes. For the conference year 1876-77 Rev. James S. Zeigler filled the charge. He found the people in the midst of the grasshopper scourge and much cast down, twelve being received on probation and as many dismissed, being compelled to leave on account of the grasshoppers.

Rev. C. W. Clifton was appointed by the conference for the year 1877-78. In 1878 the Milwaukee railroad was built, and the then new town of Sanborn was united with Primghar in one charge with Rev. W. H. Drake as pastor. The first preaching place at Sanborn was at the residence of Hiram Algyer, who had just removed to Sanborn from Primghar. The next spring the waiting room of the depot at Sanborn was tendered and occupied as a place for church service. The first members at Sanborn were Ira Brashears, a supernumerary, Jacob Wolf and wife, Patience Daniels, Mary Neece and Nancy Bunkheart. In early summer of 1879 the service was changed to the then new school house, which later on was William Harker's residence. Rev. W. H. Drake, who had acquired quite a reputation as a church builder, that year erected two church buildings, one at Sanborn and

one at Primghar. Besides being a preacher, he was a good mechanic, and himself made a full hand at all classes of work, carrying mortar, carpenter and doing all-around work and preached on Sunday. He was followed by Rev. Beebe for the conference year 1880-81. This brings the Methodist church up from Old O'Brien to Primghar, through the several school houses with its connection with Sanborn in 1878 and then separation. The further church history of each town will be found under its own head.

TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, PRIMGHAR.

Inasmuch as a goodly number of the first residents of Primghar in 1872 had moved up with the county seat from Old O'Brien, and as many of the first ministers in the county located there preached in the several school houses between the two places, we will treat it as one continuous county-seat Methodist church. Inasmuch also as for the first fifteen years this was practically the only church in the county, will form the reason for giving it larger space than some of the other churches in the county.

All the south part of the county was for twenty years, 1858-1878, a part of a very extensive circuit and included in what was called the Little Sioux Mission, and was served by the following ministers: Rev. O. S. Wright, 1865-66-67; Rev. Seymour Snyder, 1863-64; Rev. R. S. Hawk, 1865-66-67; Rev. W. W. Mallory, 1867; Rev. Thomas Whitely, 1869; Rev. C. W. Clifton, 1870-71; Rev. John W. Lothian, 1872; Rev. C. W. Wiley, 1873; Rev. J. E. Cohenour, 1874-75; Rev. J. W. Wiley, 1875-76; Rev. James S. Zeigler, 1877; Rev. C. W. Clifton, 1878.

Primghar was platted and laid out as a town and became the county seat in 1872, and became a charge in 1878, with Rev. W. H. Drake as pastor.

It was during the two years' pastorate of Rev. W. H. Drake that the first church building was built at a cost of one thousand dollars not including the value of the personal labor of Rev. Drake himself. Rev. Drake was an all-around carpenter, mason, and indeed any and all other work needed and he in fact put in much of that year. Presiding Elder ("Parson") Lozier dedicated the church in October, 1879.

Rev. A. J. Beebe was pastor for one year from conference to conference, 1880-81, followed by Rev. S. C. Bascom for two years, 1881-83.

On June 24, 1882, a destructive cyclone passed through the town and completely demolished this first church building and scattered its debris for a mile and more. The church people then went back into the school house, as they had done prior to 1879.

Rev. Hugh Hay followed for the years 1883-85. Rev. Mr. Searles, a young student, supplied from the conference in 1885 until April, 1886, when he resigned on account of ill health. Rev. A. King filled out that year and was reappointed for the year 1886-87. It was during his pastorate that the second church building was erected at cost of one thousand four hundred dollars. This building was sold in 1900 to the Catholic church, which they removed to the south part of town and has been since occupied by them.

After the above date from dates of conferences usually held in October and until 1903, the following pastors served the church: Rev. J. W. Lent, 1887-89; Rev. A. A. Marcy, 1889-91; Rev. R. K. Calloway, 1891-94; Rev. H. L. Shoemaker, 1894-95; Rev. E. G. Keith, 1895-97; Rev. C. M. Phoenix, 1897-1903.

The present church was built under the pastorate of Rev. Phoenix. Rev. Dr. Ives, of New York, dedicated it September 10, 1900, at a cost of the building of seven thousand four hundred and thirty-seven dollars.

The following pastors then served: Rev. W. O. Tompkins, 1903-07; Rev. F. F. Case, 1907-10; Rev. Charles S. Burnett, 1910-12; Rev. Thomas Andrew, 1912, and is the present pastor.

Its list of presiding elders (now district superintendents) have been Rev. George Clifford, Rev. W. McCain, Rev. J. W. Ladd, Rev. Bennett Mitchell, Rev. Glass, Rev. Chaplain Jesse Cole, Rev. J. B. Trimble, Rev. Hugh Hay, Rev. J. L. Gilleas and Rev. A. D. McBurney.

Its Sunday school superintendents have been Daniel Bysom, J. H. Wolf, Joseph Metcalf, William Archer, A. E. Hatch, Walter Bonath and Herman Bonath.

Its church officary for 1914 is as follows: Bishop, Frank M. Bristol; district superintendent, Rev. A. D. McBurney; pastor, Rev. Thomas Andrew; Sunday school superintendent, Herman Bonath; organist, Ruth Little; chorister, Ralph Langley; treasurer, J. L. E. Peck; secretary, J. H. Wolf.

HARTLEY M. E. CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Hartley was organized by Rev. Frank E. Drake in June, 1880, with Mr. and Mrs. Allen Crossan and Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Gano as members of the first class. A church building was erected in 1882, costing one thousand five hundred dollars; it stood on the site of the present church, and served its purpose until 1899, when the new red-pressed brick edifice, trimmed in stone, was dedicated on December 17th of that year. Its cost was about fourteen thousand dollars. The total value

placed on this today is eighteen thousand dollars. The first parsonage was on the lot south of the Evangelical church. In 1888 the present building was erected at a cost of three thousand dollars. In November, 1913, the membership of this church was one hundred and eighty-five. The pastors who have served this church are as follows: Revs. E. E. Drake, 1880; S. A. R. Groom, 1880-82; E. L. Stephens, 1882-84; A. A. Shessler, 1884-86; R. J. Davenport, 1886-87; J. M. Lothian, 1887-88; W. W. Brown, 1889; C. B. Winters, 1889-91; Levi Jarvis, 1891-93; W. W. McGuire, 1893-94; F. W. Ginn, 1894-98; D. A. McBurney, 1898-1901; O. S. Bryan, 1901-03; L. H. Woodworth, 1903-04; William Whitfield, 1904-05; W. M. Ayers, 1905-06; Ira Aldrich, 1906-07; C. E. Boyden, 1907-08; J. F. Hunter, 1908-09; G. R. Gilbert, 1909-13; H. C. Nessen came in the fall of 1913 and is still pastor.

Of all the early officials of this church, there were only two living in 1913, and one of these was J. S. Webster.

SHELDON M. E. CHURCH.

At Sheldon the Methodist Episcopal church was organized in the pioneer days of the town. The story goes that the first sermon preached in the town by a Methodist minister was by Rev. Ira Brashears in 1872, in the depot of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha railroad. The first class was formed in 1873 by Rev. J. Starkey, who became the first pastor of the church. Meetings were held in the school house on Fourth avenue, later in a hall over the drug store on Main street. In 1881 the first church building was erected where the present church now stands. Among the early pastors were Revs. Starkey, Regby, Hough, Hastings, Bryan, Edgar. When the first building was to be dedicated it was understood that Chaplain McCabe (later the great, widely known bishop) was to be on hand to dedicate, but he failed to get the letter and Pastor Edgar, of Sheldon, went off to Hull to preach, and while gone McCabe arrived on a freight train Saturday night and raised the town and delivered his popular lecture on "Libby Prison," and at the close broached the church question and on the spot raised a subscription of one thousand five hundred dollars on the debt. So when the pastor came home he found McCabe had come and gone to another point where he had a church to dedicate. This was during the summer of 1880. In 1889 ground was broken and on August 22, 1899, the corner stone was laid, and on March 25, 1900, the present building was dedicated by B. I. Ives, Rev. H. G. Campbell being the local pastor at the time. Later pastors were Revs. Burdick, Cook, Lace, Suckow, Middlekoff, Carr, Brown, Kennedy, Artman, Cocrane, McKee,

Campbell, Bassett, Wasser and the present pastor, Rev. J. J. Bushnell, D. D.

The present value of the church property is thirty thousand dollars. Total membership is three hundred sixty-six; Epworth enrollment, one hundred; average in Sunday school, two hundred fifty.

The presiding elders and district superintendents have been: Revs. Bennett Mitchell, L. S. Hartsough, James Williams, John H. Lozier, Gleason, Jesse Cole, Trimble, Hastings, Vetter, Hay, Gilleas and the present incumbent, Rev. D. A. McBurney.

CALUMET M. E. CHURCH.

The Methodist church at Calumet was organized soon after the town started and in 1891 a neat frame building was erected. What is now known as the Calumet charge consists of two churches, one in town and one in the country, with a total membership of eighty-three.

ARCHER CHURCHES.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Archer was organized in 1896, and was made up in part of members from those who had belonged to the Baker class, known as the Philby church, then attached to Paullina, and in part of members from the Epworth or what was known as the Toothacre church in Carroll, and in part by the citizens of Archer. A commodious church was built at a cost of four thousand five hundred dollars, and a parsonage, at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars, as shown by the conference reports. The pastors thus far have been: Revs. C. E. Van Horn, J. N. Liscomb, A. L. Tainter, Rev. Farnham, F. W. Wilson, A. D. Hastings, W. H. Flint, F. G. Cox, S. L. Eddy, A. W. Hunter, E. F. Lovett, R. L. Mitchell and Thomas Hill. It has a present membership of fifty-eight. The Baker or Philby church referred to is situated six miles to the south and west of Archer. The first church building at this point was blown down by a cyclone a number of years ago. This Baker church is served by the pastor at Archer by alternating services morning and afternoon and evening.

PAULLINA M. E. CHURCH.

At Paullina the history of the Methodist Episcopal church has been written up as follows by David Alger:

(NOTE—It is to be deeply regretted that the book containing the early

records of the church has been lost, and the following is supplied from memory by W. W. Delmage, one of the organizers of the church.)

The Methodist Episcopal church of Paullina was organized at a meeting of members of the church who had come from various organizations of the Methodist Episcopal church at the home of Mrs. Mary S. Marvin, in October, 1883, about ten members being present, and the Rev. J. Fancher, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Primghar, officiating, and among the first membership were the following named people: Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Delmage, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Bazely, Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Rerick and Mrs. Mary S. Marvin.

Most of that little group have gone over to the Beyond, but the solemn impressions gained that day from the renewed vows of the little band always remained to life's latest day with those who are gone, and with those remaining with us yet.

The church was for a time under the pastorate of Rev. J. Fancher, after which Rev. R. Day filled the pulpit, and he was succeeded by Rev. Levi Jarvis, then came Rev. W. N. Dunham, followed by Rev. Fred Ginn, and he by Rev. Thomas Carson, then by Rev. L. S. Trontman, Rev. G. P. Hathaway, Rev. J. McCaffrey, Rev. George Kidder, Rev. J. Skaggs, Rev. L. H. McKay, Rev. J. R. Magee, Rev. R. L. Stuart, Rev. E. M. Glasgow, Rev. G. Smith and by the present pastor, Rev. B. F. Thomas.

In the year 1889 the present church edifice was erected and, being improved from time to time, is now a commodious house of worship, that would be a credit to any community.

The first board of trustees of the church was made up of the following named members: W. W. Delmage, B. C. Howard, Benjamin Bazely, I. L. Rerick and Mrs. Mary S. Marvin. The value of the church property, including parsonage is twelve thousand dollars. The membership of the church at this writing is one hundred and twenty-five. The present board of stewards are as follows: W. W. Delmage, J. R. Culp, H. G. Culp, George W. Smith, George Raw, R. W. Young, W. J. Ullman, John Ginger, M. L. Peterson and Mrs. R. W. Young, and the present board of trustees are H. G. Culp, George Raw, W. J. Ullman, Jacob Ginger, R. W. Young, George W. Smith, J. R. Culp and George W. Harris.

The ladies of the Methodist Episcopal church, by and through their organization known as the Helping Hand Society, has been a great aid to the church and a great factor for good in the community, always looking after the comfort of the sick and helping the destitute, lending sympathy to the

discouraged and, in ways that women only know, rendering assistance where it is most needed.

At Sanborn the Methodist church has a membership of ninety-five; its church property valuation is eleven thousand five hundred dollars; number of Sunday school scholars, one hundred and thirty.

At Sutherland the church has a membership of one hundred and fifty-six; value of church property, thirteen thousand five hundred dollars; number attendance in Sunday school, one hundred and seventy-six.

There are several points in this county where churches exist of this denomination not given above, as facts have not been furnished.

An early-day Methodist Episcopal church was built and organized in Waterman township. It is known as the Highland-Waterman Methodist Episcopal church and was incorporated November 9, 1889. It was incorporated by J. Cole, president; A. E. Randall, secretary, and William Gilbert, J. H. Bruner, M. S. Draper, David Patrick and Aaron Bradstreet, trustees.

The name of this church illustrates the early pioneer conditions. The two townships, though only cornering to each other and nearly twenty miles to or from extreme corners, were then all one neighborhood. In those days a five-mile neighbor was a very near neighbor. Thus were the early settlers welded together by church, family and neighborly ties. Though the day of the old circuit rider is past, these country churches rally in memory much that is sacred.

MONETA CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal church of Moneta was incorporated January 16, 1903, by Charles H. Colby, F. H. Howard, P. C. Keith, E. E. Dodge and W. H. Phetepiece as trustees and officials.

In the very early day there was erected a very neat Methodist Episcopal church on the northwest corner of section 12, in Carroll township, and known as the (Charles W.) Toothacre church. It has been supplied at times from Sheldon and at times the Archer, Baker or Philby and this Toothacre church have been served by the same pastor.

There are several items that in later years tend to militate against the country churches. First, they are not often strong enough to fully support a pastor themselves. Second, the automobile now takes the churchgoer into town in half an hour. A third condition also exists in O'Brien county. We had twelve towns and scarcely a farmer but lives within seven or, at most, ten miles from any town.

The Highland Methodist Episcopal church, built on the southwest corner of section 28, Waterman township, was built in the year 1893. Rev. Charles Artman preached here some in 1886. In the autumn of 1886 Rev. J. M. Woolery came and preached and organized a church called the Broad Street appointment on the Peterson charge. Meetings were held in the school house until the church was built. The church was dedicated in the autumn of 1893 by Rev. A. S. Cochran, Rev. G. W. Barnes being pastor in charge. They were transferred to the Sutherland charge in the year 1889, then to the Calumet charge, in the year 1909.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES.

By Rev. B. J. Rhodes.

As to the exact date of the beginning of Congregationalism in the county, history is silent. The first organized body had its birth in Grant township on the 9th day of October, 1871, when a few earnest souls who had been worshipping under the leadership of Rev. J. H. Covey concluded that the time was ripe for the formation of a church. Acting on this conviction, a council of ministers and lay delegates from Congregational churches in the "Sioux country," was called for the purpose of considering the advisability, and, if found expedient, to effect such organization. After due investigation and prayerful deliberation a vote supporting the affirmative was taken, and the First Congregational church of O'Brien county was organized on the above date.

This was the heroic stage in the religious life of the people of the county. Poverty, privation and hardship of one sort and another greatly retarded the progress of organized Christianity. These worthy pioneers, being poor in purse and limited in means, were unable to erect a house of worship at once, and for five years or thereabouts the school house of the district was the sanctuary. The year 1876 witnessed the erection of the first Congregational church building in the county, later incorporated as the First Congregational church of Grant township. Circumstances and elements seemed to conspire against this child of the prairie, and seek its overthrow. First was the scourge of grasshoppers which decimated and depleted the population until only one member remained, Mother Slack, and she alone, and single-handed, perpetuated the organization. The 'hoppers broke up the church and a cyclone struck the building, still she would not give up. At length the pest subsided and people returned to the neighborhood and thought it well to organize another church, and for this purpose another council was called. Mother Slack objected to the new organization,

for, said she, "There is a church here now." "Well, where is the church?" "I am it," she replied. "Well, would it not be better to disband and form anew?" "I'll never disband," she said, and so she stood up and took a dozen members into the old church, and preserved its "historic continuity," and the earlier date is recognized in our minutes. This was one of the five churches which united to form the Sioux association, one of the largest in the state today, only one other having as many churches within its bounds. Two words, sacrifice and helpfulness, characterized this church from the beginning. Sacrifice in service and helpfulness where opportunity afforded. Indeed the organic identity of this church was lost to the world through service to others, the principal beneficiary being the Congregational church of Primghar, a child of this mother church, for the making of which the Grant church furnished a splendid quota of men and women, several of whom are still active in Christian service and constitute a substantial part of the membership of the latter named body. Lost in name, it still lives in influence and spirit, and Congregationalists all over the county honor the name and bless the memory of the Grant Congregational church.

Other Congregational churches were organized at Sheldon, Primghar and Gaza, each in the order recorded. And thus, from this modest beginning, we have the Congregationalism of today as it obtains in O'Brien county. A brief historical sketch of each organization and its work follows this article.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF PRIMGHAR.

Twenty-six years ago this month (March, 1914) the First Congregational church of Primghar was organized with fifteen charter members. Previous to this the spiritual life of the town was centered in the Methodist church, the sole representative of organized Christianity in the town. On March 8, 1888, eight Congregationalists gathered at the home of Rice Reader, "a man sent from God;" a man chosen of God to do a foundation work in the interest of organized Christianity in this place. The monument to the consecration, the devotion, the untiring zeal of this brother is builded in the hearts of his colleagues and contemporaries. At this meeting a resolution was made, and vows taken which eighteen days later were realized, when the formal organization of the First Congregational church of Primghar was perfected. The following July witnessed the organization of the first Congregational Sunday school, of which Rice Reader was elected superintendent, which office he filled for eleven consecutive years. This church,

as others of the state, was a child of the nursing mother, the Iowa Congregational Home Missionary Society. One thousand four hundred and ninety-five dollars of home missionary aid was received during the first seven years of its history. The investment, however, proved a wise and remunerative one, for at the end of that seven-year period, in the year 1895, month of December, the good people of this church said, "It is enough. No longer will we ask aid from the Home Missionary Society." Then and there the church became self supporting and has remained such to the present date. More than this. The church has not only been self supporting, but also a helper of others in times of need, very much more than that having been contributed for benevolent work in various parts of the earth.

The first church building was erected in the fall of 1899, formal dedication being held on July 27, 1899. Five years later the building was enlarged, two thousand four hundred dollars being expended in addition to the original investment. The continued smile and favor of God rested upon this people, and growing interest increased numbers until the building again became inadequate, and in the year 1910 approximately six thousand dollars was expended on a church building, and the present beautiful, adequate, well equipped church was provided. In the spring of 1894 a parsonage was erected, representing an investment of approximately one thousand dollars, which enterprise was due largely to the active efforts of Rev. J. C. Stoddard, the pastor of the church at that time. Thus the original property investment of two hundred and seventy-five dollars for lots now occupied by church buildings has increased to sixteen thousand seven hundred dollars, present property valuation.

"And what shall we say more?" Space forbids even brief mention of many worthy names and splendid achievements. Only summaries can be made. The fifteen souls constituting the charter members have increased to one hundred and forty-four, the present membership of the church. Approximately four hundred have been admitted to the membership during the years, about two hundred and fifty on confession of their faith.

But these bare financial and statistical statements are no indication of the work done during the years of this society's existence. The church has been a power for good in every direction. Its financial affairs have added to the business life of the community. Far more important is the influence it has cast around the children and young people and the citizens in general. Interested in all good things, this church has stood for the best. As a moral, an educational, an inspirational center, this church has been a power. We

face the future with confidence, believing that we have only begun to realize what God intends to do with us, and through us, if we are faithful to Him.

More appropriate words for closing this sketch could scarcely be found than Paul's addressed to the Christians at Philippi: "Forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ, Jesus."

THE FRIENDS SOCIETY NEAR PAULLINA.

The society of Friends, founded in the seventeenth century, has many yearly meetings scattered over the country, which may be called the parent bodies.

The conservative branch conducts one of these yearly meetings in this state, known as Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends, of which the meeting known as Paullina Monthly Meeting of Friends is a subordinate branch. This was set up, or organized, the 26th of twelfth month, 1885, and the meetings were then held in a private house.

In 1886 a meeting house was erected on a two-acre lot on the southwest quarter of section 31, Highland township, at a cost of about one thousand dollars, size of house thirty feet square. In 1911 the present house was erected, being thirty-four by forty-six feet, and cost about one thousand seven hundred dollars, including a concrete basement.

Meetings for worship are regularly held on the first and fourth days of each week, at ten A. M. in summer and eleven A. M. in winter, except the fourth day preceding the second seventh day in each month, when the monthly meeting is held on the seventh day.

All are considered to be on a common level, and have no prearranged services; the meeting is held, even if only a few attend. The assembly never waits for any special person, as the meeting is simply held for divine worship, which is believed to consist in communion of individuals with their Maker, and not just to hear or to speak, though there is liberty for any to express what is on their mind, if they feel it their duty to do so.

Meetings for business are held each month, and this meeting orders and controls all church affairs. A clerk is appointed each year, who minutes and records the proceedings of each meeting in a book. There are women's meetings for business, as well as men's, held in separate session, each meeting appointing its own clerk.

No business is done by vote, but is considered with the thought of all

being united. If any one feels a serious objection, the matter is postponed until all feel free it should pass, or at least, no objection be made.

Trustees are about the only officials who are appointed for an unlimited time. The first ones were Archibald Crosbie, Ole P. Tjossem and Hubert Rockwell. Others have been appointed as became necessary on account of death or removal. The present trustees are Oman K. Tow, Archibald Henderson and Lewis L. Rockwell.

The appointment of overseers is considered each year, to have general oversight of the good order and unity among the members. Committees are appointed for other purposes as needed.

A meeting for ministers and elders is held once in three months and consists of well concerned Friends appointed by the monthly meeting.

In the winter of 1887-8 a school was started and held in the meeting house, with a length of term of three and one-half months, afterwards lengthened to four months. In 1899 a school house was built at a cost of about five hundred dollars; size of building, twenty by twenty-eight feet. About this time a spring term of two months was added to the length of the school year, and later a fall term was added, which made it eight months.

In 1909 the school house was moved a short distance, and twelve feet added to its length. This, with a basement and furnace, cost about seven hundred dollars. The number of students having increased, two teachers were engaged. In 1912 the school house was again enlarged to double its size, which made it forty feet square, with primary and advanced rooms, class room and hall, costing one thousand five hundred dollars. Three teachers were then employed. The number of pupils at the present time is about forty, and the maximum, in 1912-3, was fifty-three.

The course of instruction is made according to the state manual, up to the end of the eighth grade, except music, which is not taught. There is also two years of high school work. No special religious instruction is required, except that a portion of Scripture is read in the morning, and the pupils are required to commit to memory a few verses of Scriptures once a week and to attend the meeting on the fourth days, our object being to have a special care over the children, in order to eliminate, as much as possible, evil habits and cultivate good ones.

A committee is appointed each year to have an oversight and care in the management of the school, hire teachers, etc. This and other like schools in the yearly meeting, are under the supervision of a superintendent, who is employed by the yearly meeting.

There is a library in connection with and for the use of the school. Also a library in the meeting house, owned by the monthly meeting, containing religious books, which will be loaned free to any one who wishes to read them, and a collection of Friends' tracts for free distribution.

EVANGELICAL CHURCHES.

This denomination, in its various branches, is quite strong in O'Brien county. St. John's Evangelical church at Sanborn was formed in 1886 by the following members: William Marquardt, M. David, Christopher Guse, Carl Nemitz, John Grabow, John Steuck, August Marquardt. The present voting membership is thirty-four families. The pastors have been as follows: Revs. A. Coppett, P. Thusius, C. Dacumber, C. F. W. Brandt and F. Albrecht since January, 1907.

In 1895 a frame church was erected at a cost of two thousand five hundred dollars. They also have a good parsonage and a full block of ground. The parochial school attached to this church society has a membership of pupils at present of sixteen. The school house was erected in 1910 and is a frame structure. This denomination has in O'Brien county churches at Hartley, Paullina, Germantown and Sanborn.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN ZION CHURCHES.

In the year 1889 the now sainted Rev. E. Zuerrer, then pastor of the congregation at Germantown, called the few Lutheran families living in and close to Paullina together and with them conducted the first Lutheran service in Paullina. In spite of the many duties in his pastorate of his own congregation he, nevertheless, preached regularly to the few families, assisted for a time by a student of theology, E. Gesterling, who had charge of the congregation at Mill Creek.

From August, 1891, until September, 1893, Rev. H. Schwenk, then pastor of Mill Creek congregation, served these families with preaching of the divine gospel. In the summer of 1892 a congregation was organized with five voting members. Rev. H. Schwenk having been called away, the congregation then was in charge of his successor, Rev. C. D. Nuoffer.

With untiring energy, he conducted Lutheran services in the public school building for ten years.

The congregation enjoyed a slow but steady growth and the members at the expiration of the ten years felt themselves able, with the support of

the mission board, to call a pastor of their own. And thus, on September 11, 1904, the Rev. August F. Bernthal was installed as the first resident Lutheran pastor in Paullina. Under his faithful service the congregation continued in substantial growth, and after mature deliberation decided to build and own a house of worship.

On October 28, 1906, the present church edifice was dedicated to the service of the Lord. In 1908 Rev. Bernthal accepted a call to the congregation at Edwardsville, Illinois. After a vacancy of about nine months, during which time the congregation was in charge of Rev. Oscar H. Horn, the present pastor, Rev. A. H. Semmon, then pastor of the Lutheran congregation at Alton, Illinois, accepted the call and was installed into the office of pastor on May 9, 1909.

In the fall of 1909 the congregation purchased the excellent property just south of the church for a parsonage. The congregation at the present time has fifty voting members and three hundred souls. The value of church property is now twelve thousand dollars.

At Hartley the German Evangelical Lutheran church was formed in 1899 by Rev. C. Bondigkeit, of Peterson, Iowa. In the spring of 1900 the society bought the old Methodist Episcopal church and moved the same to a lot in the northeast part of town. In May, that year, the congregation appointed Rev. Karl Dexheimer as pastor, and by the year's end some forty or fifty families counted themselves as members of this congregation. The following year they erected a fine frame parsonage and purchased a handsome organ. Changes were made in the church building in 1903, when it was completely overhauled. Following Rev. Dexheimer came Rev. William Vehe, who, after two years and nine months, was succeeded by Rev. Schiemi-chen, and he, in August, 1907, was followed by Rev. J. Fischer, who is still doing a great work among his people.

St. Paul's Evangelical congregation, at Hartley, was organized September 26, 1909. Prior to this time Rev. Albrecht, of Sanborn, cared for the people of this religious faith who resided near Hartley. August 29, 1909, Rev. Schrien was installed pastor by Rev. Albrecht. The young society struggled on and soon saw the need of a house of worship, and finally, on July 24, 1910, the corner stone was laid to start the superstructure of a new church, which was dedicated in December, that year. This is a small, but well-planned building, having good basement, light and ventilation.

Evangelical Lutheran St. John's church, which now enjoys a membership of about ninety, at the quiet little hamlet of Germantown, in Caledonia

township, was organized in 1883, by the faithful few who banded together and built a church on ten acres of land donated by Henry Richter, for church and cemetery purposes. Here they erected a building costing about seven thousand dollars. The first church was erected, however, on section 14, and with it a parsonage. It was in 1888 that the present good church building was erected on section 15, while the cemetery is located on section 14. The three acres upon which the church stands was bought by the church members. The church building is thirty-six by seventy-two feet, one story in height, having twenty-two-foot posts. A year after the church was built the congregation was provided with a good sounding organ. The first minister in this congregation was Rev. E. Zeurrer, who served for eleven years, from 1879 to 1892. Then came Rev. J. Horn, who died after a forceful sermon, only about a half hour elapsing after he left the pulpit till he was cold in death. Heart failure was the attributed cause of his death. Next came his son, Rev. Oscar Horn, who remained a long number of years, and was succeeded by Rev. Henry Grefe, who served a year and ten months, when he met a horrible and accidental death by the burning of an overturned automobile in which he was riding with others from near Meriden, where he had been instructing a choir of his denomination. The auto ran off the side of a twelve-foot bridge, and while he and a boy were pinned beneath the machine, at eleven o'clock at night, he begged the bystanders to extricate the youth before trying to help him out. In trying to do this a lantern was caught in a nearby tree and thrown over and into the upturned automobile. The gasoline escaping from the machine was by the lantern ignited, causing a great explosion, in which the faithful minister was burned to death. He left a family of six children, his wife having died a few months prior to this terrible accident, September 6, 1912. The driver was so badly injured that he died the next day. His name was August Pauling, aged thirty-eight years, and he left a wife and four children.

Following Rev. Grefe came Rev. F. W. Potratz, of Willow City, North Dakota; he came November 17, 1912, and is still serving.

THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL.

The church above described has in connection one of the best schools in the county. It is the parochial school where both German and English are taught by highly competent instructors. The building in which this school is kept was erected about 1901, after having occupied the original smaller building until the number of pupils increased until it became too crowded

This last building is forty-eight by ninety-six feet, one story high. The seating capacity is one hundred and fifty pupils. At first stoves were had for heating both school and church, but now it has furnace heat. This school teaches the common and higher branches. The first instructor here was Prof. Wilde Clement Kampe; then came Prof. H. G. Nuoffer, who left in 1911 and was succeeded by Prof. W. A. Leiner (lower class) and Rev. R. B. Knuth (higher class).

At Germantown there is a fine brass band of nineteen pieces, organized in 1889 by Professor Kampe. All this church and school life in the township shows that the Germans of this county—especially in the little "kingdom of Caledonia"—set a good example for others to follow, in many particulars.

NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH.

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran church of Paullina was organized on July 22, 1888, in the school building in Paullina.

The Rev. N. G. Peterson, then pastor at Jewel Junction, Iowa, came here and took charge of the work, and for some time the meetings were held in the school house, and later in the Presbyterian church.

In 1893 the Lutheran church bought the Presbyterian church building, the Presbyterians deciding to build a new house of worship, and they are using their first purchased church building at this time.

At first the Norwegian Lutheran church here was independent of any of the organizations of the Norwegian church in this country. In 1902, during the pastorate of Rev. Helmers, they joined the United church. Of the first members who signed the roll there are just four now living in this locality, to-wit: Olus Idso, Peter Idso, Martin Larson and Iver Goodmanston. The church has had nine different pastors, as follows: N. G. Peterson, now of Des Moines; Rev. Harrisville, of Chicago; Rev. Kasa, no longer in the work; Rev. Erwik, present residence unknown; Rev. John Mattson, of Mauston, Wisconsin; Rev. H. O. Helmers, now of Norway; Rev. H. Noss, now at Mankato, Minnesota; Rev. L. E. Kleppe, of Sioux Rapids, Iowa, and Rev. Theodore Kleppe, the present pastor. Of these, but two had their residence here, the Rev. Helmers and Rev. Theodore Kleppe. The difficulty of getting ministers to serve this charge has been one of the great drawbacks to the advancement of the church here. At times they have been for months without services. On September 1, 1912, Rev. Kleppe came and since then the work of the church has advanced rapidly. The outlook for the future is

fine, the pastor finding a fine field for his labors and a liberal response from his people.

The church now has forty voting members and about one hundred fifty members in good standing. In the twenty-five years of its existence one hundred and thirty-eight persons have been baptized and sixty-four have been confirmed. The church has property valued at not less than five thousand dollars, and is managed by a board of trustees, consisting of F. Stangeland, Goodman Goodmanson and K. Fjeld, and the following named members are the deacons of the church at the present time: E. Fkor, Thor Naig and Peter Naig.

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH.

This church at Sanborn was organized in the autumn of 1911 and the building was erected so that it was dedicated February 11, 1912. It is a frame structure costing three thousand dollars, with an addition built in 1913. The original members of this society were W. W. Brouwer, G. D. Young, O. Vander Werf, P. Mars, C. Geolder. K. Tap, B. Mellema, B. Hofman, J. Hofman, W. Groneveld. The pastor since November 17, 1912, has been Rev. F. Stuart. The total membership of this congregation is now sixty-two families. The value of church, parsonage and grounds in the fall of 1913 was placed at six thousand seven hundred dollars. In O'Brien county this denomination has churches at Sanborn and Sheldon.

The church at Sheldon was organized in 1905 by the classis of Orange City, Iowa. There were about fifteen members. The first building was erected in 1906 and an addition made in 1912, making it now thirty-two by fifty feet in size. The present total membership is about eighty families, or four hundred souls. The pastors have been Rev. F. Stuart, from 1906 to 1912, and the present pastor, Rev. Peter J. M. Voortman, who was installed May 4, 1913. The present valuation placed on the property of this church is eight thousand dollars. There is also a church of this denomination at Sanborn, as above noted, and these are the only two of the kind in O'Brien county.

EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION.

The Evangelical Association at Hartley was organized April 10, 1889, when the work was effected by the following original charter membership: F. Klampes, Caroline Klampes, George Klampes, Silas Klampes, Albert Klampes, Ida Klampes, Clara Klampes, John Klampes, Sophia Klampes, William Klampes, Albert Reinke, Minnie Reinke, F. Durre, Hillens Durre,

Jacob Widman, Mrs. Widman, Anna Widman, William Widman, W. Filk, W. Filk, Sr., Rose Filk.

The present membership of this society is twenty-eight, although in 1901 it had reached ninety-eight. The present building was erected in 1890, at a cost of two thousand three hundred dollars. The first parsonage, still standing, cost one thousand five hundred dollars. The church property is now valued at four thousand five hundred dollars. The various pastors have been: Revs M. Trumbauer, G. Borghardt, John J. DeWahl, William Grobe, G. Youngblood, J. W. Wienands, L. Reep, Henry Raecker, E. C. Graenner, John D. Schaible, Peter Schott, Charles S. Lang, William F. Mather, these having served from 1889 to 1914.

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

The First Church of Christ of Pringhar was organized and incorporated November 9, 1899, by William Wicks, Emma J. Wicks, William King, Theodore King, J. P. Knox, Jessie Frasier and many others. The church building was erected in 1896 and cost thirty-one hundred dollars.

The First Church of Christ of Sutherland of the same denomination was incorporated May 15, 1897, by Charles Peaker, J. N. Slick, F. W. Hulser, James Parker and others.

The First Church of Christ at Archer was incorporated October 15, 1898, by P. S. Tamer, D. H. Smith, James Morfitt and others.

This denomination also organized at Sheldon at a very early day and built a church, but at present and for some time it has been without a pastor.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

The First Church of Christ (Christian Science) was incorporated in Sheldon May 9, 1895, and Mrs. Isadore Starrett was chosen as first reader and F. E. Wade as second reader. Services and readings are held at its audience rooms in the second story of the Union Bank building.

The First Church of Christ (Christian Science) at Sanborn was incorporated April 2, 1898, by William Woodman, Frank Brainard, Peter Velie and August Schoel as trustees.

The First Church of Christ (Christian Science) was organized in Pringhar in 1913 by the election of Mrs. D. R. Carmichael as first reader, and Mrs. J. S. Nye, Jr., as second reader. Services and readings are held in the second story of the Yeoman's lodge building.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT PAULLINA.

By David Alger.

The First Presbyterian church at Paullina was organized in the fall of 1881, as follows:

Rev. J. M. McComb, at that time located at Sanborn, Iowa, under the auspices of the board of home missions of the Presbyterian church, laid the foundation of what is now our Presbyterian church, by holding occasional Sabbath services in the Carman school house in Dale township.

On January 10, 1882, at the home of Alexander Scott, in Dale township, Mr. McComb organized a church of twenty-four members, namely: Alexander Scott, Helen Scott, John Sibbald Scott, William F. Scott, James M. Christie, Helen Clark, Rachel Clark, Thomas Milligan, Thomas Scott, Mary C. Scott, Thomas A. Scott, Fred L. Murrie, Walter Cowan, Mrs. Walter Cowan, Mrs. J. Douglas, Jane J. Cowan, Agnes M. McNaughton, William Redford, Helen Redford, Jessie Redford, Andrew Redford, Jane Redford, Robert Aitken, William Aitken, Mary G. Aitken, Bella M. Aitken, Thomas H. Aitken, William S. Clark.

Of these Alexander Scott and the late William Aitken were elected elders, and Thomas Scott and the late William Redford formed the first board of trustees.

In May, 1882, Mr. McComb, being appointed to the place of foreign missionary to India, the church was placed under the care of Rev. Mr. Evans, who, though he remained only three weeks, made a deep impression on the people by his genial disposition and earnestness of his teaching, which remained with the people long after he was gone. Meanwhile, Paullina had grown into a good healthy town and it was considered advisable to make it the center of the Presbyterian church.

Accordingly, Mr. Evans preached the first sermon ever delivered in the town, to a little company of some eight people, on the third Sunday of May, 1882, in the parlor of the Northwestern hotel on Main street.

For financial reasons, Mr. Evans was removed to another field and the Presbyterian church of Paullina was placed with that of Marcus, Iowa, under Rev. W. E. Caldwell. Soon the congregation had so increased that a larger room was needed for its accommodation. This need was kindly met by Mrs. C. C. Smith, who offered for the purpose the use of her home, now occupied by the A. P. Jacobs hardware store. Here, for the first time in Paullina, the communion season and service was observed, and services were

continued until the place of meeting was changed to the building in which was held Paullina's first school.

The first church building of the Presbyterian church was completed in September, 1883, and was dedicated by Rev. Gramby, of Sioux City, without pulpit or pew, or furnishings of any description; the people ranged themselves as best they could on benches and a motley collection of chairs borrowed for the occasion, and, in spite of all drawbacks, it was with grateful, happy hearts, those present listened to the beautiful words with which the little edifice was set apart to its sacred use as a house of worship.

In 1886 Mr. Caldwell was regularly called and installed as pastor. In 1889 Mr. Caldwell resigned and as a brother minister said of him: "For all time, this church will remain a monument of Mr. Caldwell's work among you." Rev. Allen, of Sioux City, filled the pulpit with great acceptance until Rev. J. A. McAlmon was called and installed in October, 1889, and during his pastorate the parsonage was built. In the summer of 1891, Rev. McAlmon resigned, and Rev. Andrew Herron was called to succeed him and was installed September 1, 1891. In 1893 the first church building was sold to the Norwegian Lutheran church of Paullina, and the present church building was erected and dedicated in 1895, remodeled and made very convenient for Sunday school purposes, etc., in the year 1913. The value of the property of the Presbyterian church of Paullina at this time is not less than fifteen thousand dollars. Rev. Andrew Herron was succeeded by Dr. O. S. Thompson, who resigned in 1910 and was succeeded by the Rev. W. S. Harries, the present pastor. The temporal affairs of the church are governed by the following board of trustees: Charles Ihle, William F. Scott, W. J. McCauley, F. V. D. Bogert and Nelson Loucks. The spiritual concerns of the church are conducted by the following board of elders: Alexander Scott, John Cowan, Sr., J. S. McComb, John V. Adkins and Louis Wollenberg and the church has at present a membership of one hundred ninety-six.

OTHER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES.

The First Presbyterian church at Sanborn was organized in 1881 by Rev. William S. Peterson and the following persons: Mrs. E. R. Dunbar, Mrs. Mary L. Thomas, Mrs. Mary L. Barnett, Mrs. J. M. Martin, A. H. Everhard, J. L. Greene, Mrs. Eva V. D. Greene, Mrs. Angie Vallean. The present membership is about eighty. The value of the church property, church, parsonage, barn, etc., is about six thousand dollars.

The First Presbyterian church at Hartley was partly organized February 1, 1889, when friends of this denomination made efforts to establish the church here. The Rev. Andrew Herron, of Sanborn, had the matter in charge, he having been requested to address the people of Hartley on this subject. The services were held in the Methodist Episcopal church building, February 8, 1889, at three P. M.—hence this was really the first service of the denomination in the town of Hartley. Rev. Herron preached each other Sunday until April, that year, when a petition was sent to the presbytery at Fort Dodge, asking to effect an organization at Hartley. At the meeting of the presbytery at Grand Junction, April 23d, that year, the petition was found to be in good form and a committee appointed to organize the Hartley church. This committee consisted of Rev. T. S. Bailey, of Cedar Rapids, Rev. Andrew Herron and Elders T. S. Talmage and T. Crossan of the Sanborn Presbyterian church. Services were then held in Gross Hall, May 19, 1889, at three o'clock in the afternoon, at which time the First Presbyterian church of Hartley was really organized. The charter members were George Clyde, Mrs. Mary Clyde, James Wilson, Mrs. Agnes Wilson, J. W. Wardrup, Mrs. E. A. Wardrup, H. H. Brown, I. C. Gregg, Mrs. Rebekah Silverthorn; the first elders were James Wilson, John W. Wardrup; first set of trustees, J. M. Wilson, J. W. Wardrup, George Clyde, W. J. Lorshbough, Allen Crossan. The present membership of the Hartley church is thirty-nine. The present pastor is Rev. Frank Schweder.

THE REFORMED CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA.

This denomination (which is very much like the Christian Reformed) was organized in Sheldon, April 23, 1895, by the classis of Iowa, by the following ministers: Revs. P. Lepeltak, P. Bouma, J. M. Lunkes, and elders W. Van Rooyen and C. Wierks. The charter members were: Mrs. Weykanip, R. Kooiker, J. Wynia, Mr. and Mrs. H. Niewendorp, Mrs. Heymenses, Mr. and Mrs. D. Lemknill, Mrs. H. Pronk, G. Vander Velde, Mr. and Mrs. Stroetman, Mr. and Mrs. B. Wilkins, Mr. and Mrs. K. Vroom, W. Stryland, D. Van Dasselaar. The ministers have been in the following order: Revs. H. Dykhuizen, 1898-1901; A. Van Arendonk, 1901-1904; William Stegman, 1904-1906; A. Rozendal, 1907-1909; H. Vandewald, 1910 to present time.

The first church and parsonage were erected at No. 805 Eleventh street, in 1898, costing two thousand eight hundred dollars. The second church was

built with parsonage, at No. 953 East Seventh street in 1911, at a cost of fifteen thousand dollars. The present membership is one hundred families; members in full communion, one hundred and fifty; Sunday school attendance, one hundred and sixty. The consistory members in the autumn of 1913 were: Elders, A. Haze, H. Nienwendorp, D. Creulen, E. DenHerder; deacons, L. Rozeboom, H. Mastbergen, B. Wilkins, J. Den Hartog.

At Archer this denomination is represented by a society formed about 1900 and in 1910 a church edifice was erected. The membership is now thirty families, with a membership of twenty-four in full communion. The pastors here have been: James Vander Heide, Rev. Vanhunelen, who came in July, 1911, and is doing an excellent work among the German and Holland people of the community.

This denomination also is represented at Sheldon, where Rev. Vander Naald is pastor.

At Sanborn is what is styled the Christian Reformed church, who also have a society at Sheldon.

THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA.

At the town of Calumet this denomination is represented by a society having a present membership of twenty-eight. It was organized in 1891, during which year a neat, good-sized church building was erected, at a cost of about two thousand four hundred dollars. Its pastors have been Revs. A. Jannesen, E. Rall, Rev. Conrad, Rev. Schligel (who died while pastor at Calumet), J. J. Jaeck, H. Rixmann, the present pastor, who came in 1911. The church has a good parsonage and parochial school in connection with the church property. The school dates back to about the time the church was formed. A substantial school building was added to the church building in 1910. The parsonage was built in 1909, taking the place of the old one. The membership is composed of persons both in and out of town.

OTHER CHURCHES.

The First Reformed church of Sheldon was incorporated March 7, 1898, by W. Van Stryland, A. Haze, A. K. de Jong, H. Nienwendrop, W. Stroeman, H. Buysman and S. Schryvers as officials and have erected a very fine church.

The Trinity Evangelical church of Hartley was incorporated January

22, 1900, by John Isley, Christopher B. Olhaussen, John H. Bordewick, Fred Gierke and Jacob Warner, trustees.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's congregation at Sheldon was incorporated July 6, 1904, by William Schmidt, Peter Kruse and O. Heitritter, trustees.

The First Reformed church of Archer was incorporated June 29, 1910, by Gerrit Maouw, H. Vollink, John Hoffmeier and J. Zorgdrager.

The Christian Reform church of Sheldon was incorporated February 29, 1912, by Jan Snip, Dick Van Dassear and Henry Balt as elders and R. Hoekstra, D. La Fleur, George de Vries and A. Shellhaas, deacons.

The Evangelical Lutheran St. Emanuel's congregation was organized in Center township in 1881 and built a fine, commodious church and school building, by Henry D. Year, Michael Steuck and many others. They have maintained a German school much of the time in connection with this church.

The German Evangelical Saint John's church of Pringhar was organized and incorporated in 1903 by Dick Horstman, Johan Wittrock, William Klink and Simon Brandt as trustees; Simon Brandt, treasurer; and C. F. Greve, secretary. They erected a very neat commodious church building.

The Episcopal church had at one time a large following in Sheldon and erected a church building, in which to worship, but for some years have not supported a rector and now have no regular services.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

At Archer a church of this denomination was formed about 1900 and at about that date a frame church edifice was erected, at a cost of seven hundred dollars. This society is not in a flourishing condition at this writing.

This church was among the first formed in early Sheldon. They have a good building, but at present the society is not strong and they have no pastor to lead them.

At Sutherland this denomination, organized many years ago, have a good building, but are now without a pastor and do not maintain regular services.

OTHER CHURCHES.

The Baptist society at Sheldon was organized in the eighties; they possess a neat church building, but have no regular pastor, and do not have regular services.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN O'BRIEN COUNTY—1873 TO 1913.

By Rev. James McCormack.

In the beginning we deem it advisable to apologize to both the compilers of the history of O'Brien county, as well as to the reading public, for assuming so onerous a task as the writing of a history of the Catholic church in O'Brien county. In the performance of the task assigned, we wish to state that we have been guided to a great extent by information derived from the various sources to which we had recourse in narrating facts. History is the record written by men, for men, of what men have done in times which it is beyond the power of the living witness to reach. So much for what history is. Now for the annals connected with the Catholic church in O'Brien county.

The parish records, as well as the testimony of the older members of St. Patrick's parish, agree in stating that Rt. Rev. Monseigneur Lennihan, who was pastor of old St. Mary's church, Sioux City, Iowa, had charge at an early day over the few scattered Catholic families in six or seven counties in northern Iowa, was the first priest who came to minister to the spiritual wants of the Catholics in Sheldon and surroundings. Monseigneur Lennihan offered the holy sacrifice of the mass for the first time in Sheldon parish, in the home of Michael Burns, who then lived in Floyd township, in the year 1873 or 1874. Mr. Burns came to Floyd township, O'Brien county, Iowa, in the year 1872, and was numbered among the first settlers. He was a good neighbor, and aided many in those days of trial and much privations. The congregation who greeted Monseigneur Lennihan on his first pastoral visit at the home of Mr. Burns consisted of twenty members. Joseph Shinski, who at that time lived in Sheldon, accompanied Father Lennihan on that memorable morning. No doubt the hearts of all present were gladdened by the presence of the priest, and brought forth, as it did to the apostles of old, the exultation of joy, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." After mass, the priest addressed his little flock, congratulated them on the many sacrifices made for church and country, exhorted them to persevere to the end, and finally made arrangements for his coming visits to attend them. The following are the names of those who attended the first mass said in O'Brien county: Joseph Shinski; Pat Kennedy, wife and family, and his father and mother; Tim Donohue, known as "Little Tim," wife and family; Pat Carroll, wife and family; John Hart and family, and Michael Burns and family. There

were others whose names we failed to learn. This then may be said to be the nucleus in the formation of St. Patrick's parish, of Sheldon, Iowa.

Father Lennihan attended the Catholics of Sheldon during the years 1873 to 1876. He was one of our pioneer priests—a man of refined tastes, a fine orator, and a man who endeared himself to all classes. He was familiarly known to his people by the name of Father Bart.

Monseigneur Lennihan's second visit to the Catholics in and around Sheldon was in the fall of 1874. This time services were conducted in what was then known as the Husted hall. This hall was located where Mr. Hollander's drug store now stands. Father Lennihan, on other visits to Sheldon, said mass in the home of Joseph Shinski. Father Lennihan had in those days, as assistant, Rt. Rev. Father Garland, now of Independence, Iowa. He said mass in Mr. Shinski's home also. Mr. and Mrs. Shinski still live in Sheldon and are hale and hearty. They are highly respected by the citizens of Sheldon. Mr. Shinski has been a painstaking and successful business man. He and his devoted wife now take life easy, enjoying the fruits from long years of industry and success. Afterwards Father Lennihan and his assistant, Very Rev. J. J. Smith, pastor of the Catholic church, Emmetsburg, Iowa, at various times, attended the Catholics of Sheldon during the years 1887 and 1888. Father Smith was a man of great perseverance and wonderful endurance. He was a lover of fine horses and kept the finest horses in Palo Alto county. He took a prominent part in assisting to build up the church in those early days. He was pastor of the Emmetsburg church for over thirty years. He died a few years ago. Dominick O'Donnell, Peter Guenther, Tom Downs, Pat Murray and brother, James Parden, John Dougherty and family, James Griffin and Patrick Kelly were also among the number of the early settlers who formed a part of the first congregation of the Sheldon parish. Hon. Timothy Donohue came to O'Brien county from the state of Michigan in 1878. Patrick Sullivan and family came to O'Brien county from the state of Minnesota in 1878, and James Beacom and family came from Jones county, Iowa, to O'Brien county in 1878. These families may also be said to form a part of the first congregation of Sheldon parish.

Each succeeding year brought in additional newcomers, who settled down on the prairie, and from the rapid increase the necessity of forming a parish forced itself upon the Catholics of Sheldon, and Rev. Patrick Lynch was officially appointed the first resident pastor of Sheldon parish by Rt. Rev. John Hennessy, then bishop of the state of Iowa. The appointment

was made in the fall of 1879. Father Lynch held services on his coming to Sheldon, in the city hall, which was then located where the former home of Dr. W. H. Myers now stands. The hall was afterwards moved and located on the property now occupied by what is known as the McKeever block. After a short time the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad Company deeded a quarter block of land for church purposes. The deed was made out to Joseph Shinski, Dominick O'Donnell and Peter Guenther, as trustees for the newly organized parish, and in the spring of 1880 they commenced the erection of the first Catholic church in Sheldon. The dimensions of the church was thirty-seven feet in width, and sixty feet in length. The erection of this building was accomplished at an outlay of two thousand five hundred dollars, which, with necessary furnishings, brought the total expenditure for this purpose up to three thousand five hundred dollars. Rev. John A. O'Reilly, now of Rock Valley, succeeded Father Lynch, April 1, 1881, and remained as pastor until October 1, 1884, when Rev. Timothy Sullivan, now of Cedar Rapids, was appointed pastor of the Sheldon parish. Father Sullivan held the position of pastor of the Sheldon parish until November 13, 1889, when he was succeeded by Rev. James McCormack, who was appointed in 1890. He was succeeded by Very Rev. P. F. Farrelly, who acted as pastor until November 4, 1902. At that time Father Farrelly was succeeded by Very Rev. T. Tracy, who continued as pastor until December 1, 1905, when Rev. J. P. Barron was appointed pastor of Sheldon parish. Father Barron was succeeded by Father McCormack, the present pastor of the Sheldon congregation, he being appointed thereto in May, 1910, and for the second time sent back to fill such position. In the spring of 1911 Father McCormack, assisted by his faithful people, commenced the erection of their new church. The church was completed in 1912, and stands today, and for all time, a lasting monument to the priest and devoted Catholics of Sheldon. The total cost of the church was forty thousand dollars.

CATHOLIC CHURCH AT SANBORN.

Very Rev. J. J. Smith, pastor of the Catholic church of Emmetsburg, Iowa, it is stated upon reliable authority, was the first priest to say mass in the Sanborn parish. Soon after Father Smith's coming to Sanborn, Father Lynch was stationed at Sheldon, in 1879, as pastor, with Sanborn, Pringhar, Ashton, Sibley, Rock Valley, Rock Rapids, Hull and Hospers as outside stations, attended from Sheldon. Rev. J. A. O'Reilly succeeded Father Lynch at Sheldon in 1881. In November, 1882, Father O'Reilly started a

subscription list to build a church in Sanborn. The committee in charge was Mart Shea, M. Collins, Cornelius McCann and Dennis Crowley. In 1882 the framework of the church was completed. In 1884 Father Sullivan succeeded Father O'Reilly at Sheldon. Father Sullivan paid off the debt on the church at Sanborn and improved the property. In 1889 Father McCormack had charge of Sheldon and outside missions and attended Sanborn. In November, 1893, the Sanborn parish secured its first resident pastor, Father Corbett. He was a delicate man and remained there only a short time. Father McNamara was appointed to Sanborn parish in December, 1895. The next pastor appointed to Sanborn was Rev. J. P. Martin. He erected the first parochial residence in that parish. Father McCormack succeeded Father Martin at Sanborn, August 18, 1898. He paid off some of the debt on the place and improved the church at a cost of three thousand three hundred eighty-two dollars and ninety-six cents. The present pastor at Sanborn is Rev. L. Cooper, a whole-souled and genial character, beloved by his people. Thomas Burns, deceased, was the first Catholic family to settle in Franklin township. He settled there June 8, 1874. Mrs. Farrell and family, Mrs. McKeever, T. Ryan and family, Charles Hart, Hugh Fahey and John Kelly were among the first parishoners.

THE CHURCH AT PRIMGHAR.

The first regular attendance received by the Catholics of Primghar was from Rev. Timothy Sullivan, who went to Primghar in the fall of 1887. He said mass in the court house. Father McCormack, who took his place at Sheldon, attended Primghar during the years 1890 to 1893, saying mass in the court room, and in the office of the sheriff of the county, at the latter's kind invitation. Both Father Sullivan and Father McCormack attended Hartley also in those days. Father McCormack was accustomed to say mass in the room over Gross & Herbst store; also in a hall on the south side of the street. This was during the years 1890 to 1893.

In 1900 the Catholics of Primghar bought their present church from the Methodist people, for four hundred and seventy-five dollars, moved it to the lots owned by them, and at that time built a foundation under it, plastered it, and put in new furniture, at a total expenditure of one thousand two hundred dollars. There were but twelve families in the first congregation of Primghar at that time, which included among others the following members: John Manning and sister, John Cassidy and Frank Cassidy, and families, Mrs. McFarland and family, Joe Halbach and Con. Harrington.

Sutherland was first attended from Sheldon by Father Sullivan, during the years 1885 to 1888. The little church was not built in Sutherland until the summer of 1888. The church was erected at a cost of one thousand five hundred dollars, and the lot on which it stands was purchased for three hundred and fifty dollars. It was during Father Sullivan's administration that this church was erected. It was destroyed by a cyclone, June 24, 1891. Father McCormack came in 1890. He said mass two or three times in the church before it was destroyed. He said mass also in Mr. O'Brien's home, and in the opera house. After Father McCormack, Rev. P. A. R. Tierney came from Spencer to attend Sutherland. Then Father McCauly and Father Logue, respectively, took charge. In 1903, Father Joseph Murtagh took charge of the Sutherland parish. He bought the first parochial residence owned by the parish, from Mr. Woodbury, for two thousand dollars. He did excellent work in this field, and was succeeded by Father Bradley in March, 1905, who, in turn, was succeeded by Father LeCair in February, 1907. Father LeCair remained at Sutherland until May 4, 1913, when the present pastor, Father Schemmel, was appointed to the mission of Sutherland and outside stations. Since his appointment he has made improvements on the church by putting a large basement hall under the same, and putting in a furnace capable of heating the entire building. These were needed improvements, and Father Schemmel and his good people are to be congratulated on what they have accomplished.

Among the settlers who belong to the Sutherland parish we mention Michael Sweeney and Dennis O'Brien. Mr. Sweeney came to O'Brien county in 1873. The only Catholic family at Sutherland at the time Mr. Sweeney came was that of Thomas Merrick. John and Michael O'Donnell, Frank and Martin Klema, William and Frank Mathern, Joseph Lynch, George New, the Kopp Brothers (John Kopp and August Kopp), and Mr. Betz came later on.

Rev. Timothy Sullivan, who was pastor at Sheldon from 1884 to 1889, was the first priest to hold services in Paullina in 1885 or 1886. At that time there were but few Catholics in Paullina. After Father Sullivan's day, Rev. Father Murtagh, who was pastor at Sutherland in 1903, attended the church at Paullina and said mass in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Braig. It is said that the congregation consisted of nine members. After Father Murtagh came Father Bradley. He was succeeded by Father LeCair, and he was followed by the present pastor of Sutherland, Father Schnel, who finds the little congregation growing at Paullina so much so that the congre-

gation is looking for larger quarters to hold service in. It is to be hoped in the near future the faithful and persevering Catholics of Paullina will build a church to the honor and glory of God and their own spiritual and temporal welfare.

Let us now close our historical narrative by saying that nowhere under the blue sky of heaven today has the Catholic church a grander field than right here in O'Brien county. We are living here today in the midst of the broadest and fairest minded men to be found anywhere in the country. If the Catholics of O'Brien county do not push forward the interests of their church to the best of their ability, in these days of golden opportunities, let them attribute no blame to any of their neighbors, but, on the contrary, blame themselves. Work now while the sun of God's glory shines bright to illumine your pathway through life, so that at the setting thereof we may be recompensed for work well done. Differ as we may in matters of faith, we stand united upon the common ground of charity and benevolence. In the words of Cardinal Gibbons, "We cannot, like our Divine Master, give sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, speech to the dumb, and strength to the paralyzed limb, but we can work miracles of grace and mercy by relieving the distress of our suffering brethren." "Religion," says the Apostle, "pure and undefiled before God, is this: to visit the fatherless and the widow in their tribulation, and to keep one's self unspotted from the world." Or shall we exclaim with the pagan Cicero of old, and say: "Homines ad Deos nunquam proprius accedunt quam salutem hominibus dando,"—there is no way by which men can approach nearer to the gods than by contributing to the welfare of their fellow creatures.

RELIGIOUS STATISTICS.

The state census reports for Iowa in 1905 give the following on the churches of O'Brien county:

	No.		Value
Churches.	Membership.	of Property.	
Baptist (Regular) -----	1	100	\$ 6,500
Catholic -----	4	1,175	114,000
Christian -----	1	100	3,000
Christian Science -----	2	49	-----
Congregational -----	3	320	9,850
Friends (Conservative) --	1	86	1,200
German Baptist Brethren.	1	35	1,300
Lutheran -----	5	906	23,600

	No. Churches.	Membership.	Value of Property.
Methodist Episcopal ---	10	972	66,700
Presbyterian -----	4	304	17,200
Total -----	32	4,047	\$243,350

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The Young Men's Christian Association work as carried on in O'Brien county had its start in the year 1873 when, in Dupage township, Will county, Illinois, the work was started entirely by volunteer leadership and lasted four years, long enough to prove that such work could be done and done satisfactorily and for the wellbeing of the boys. "Uncle Robert" Weidensal saw what could be the future of this plan and gave much study and time to it and saw it experimented with in different sections of the United States. He urged the international conventions to make provisions for it and finally, after the work had been tried in fourteen different communities, it was recognized by the international convention and a special secretary was placed on the international staff to look after this work. It was at this time, 1903, that the work was started in Greene county, Iowa, with Fred M. Hansen, just out of Ames, as the county secretary. Mr. Hansen had charge of the work in that county for nearly three years and was requested to take charge of the state work and, as state county work secretary, has seen five more counties organized in this state in the following order, Buena Vista, Calhoun, Sac, Pocahontas and O'Brien.

After several requests for this type of work had been received at the state office from prominent men in this county, Mr. Hansen and his assistant, Donald G. Cathcart, came to O'Brien county on September 12, 1913, and began to investigate the county and, if enough people were found interested, to help with the organization. So much encouragement was received from the progressive, influential citizens that, after the people had been informed of what might be expected of the work, a county convention was called to meet at Primghar on October 8th and delegations were present from every town anxious to have the work started with two employed secretaries. After talks by Fred M. Hansen, Donald G. Cathcart, State Secretary W. M. Parsons, Attorney E. B. Wilson, of Jefferson, Rev. Harries, of Paullina, Professor Graeber, of Sutherland, J. S. Webster of Hartley, it was decided to organize the county with the following as the first county committee:

John McCandless, F. E. Frisbee and W. E. Clagg, of Sheldon; D. M. Norton, of Sanborn; J. S. Webster and J. C. Joslin, of Hartley; O. H. Montzheimer and W. S. Armstrong, of Primghar; C. P. Jordan and Charles Youde, of Sutherland, and George Raw, George W. Smith and C. C. Cannon, of Paulina. It was also voted to employ two secretaries and raise a budget of three thousand five hundred dollars to carry on this work.

At the first meeting of the county committee, which was on the evening of the convention, O. H. Montzheimer was elected chairman; C. C. Cannon, vice-chairman; George Raw, clerk, and C. P. Jordan, treasurer.

A large part of the budget was raised within the following month and on November 11, 1913, the county committee met and chose Donald G. Cathcart, who had helped organize the county, as the county secretary and Chester C. Welch as assistant county secretary. The regular county work was started immediately following this meeting and at the present time (April 1, 1914) seventeen groups are in active operation. These groups average about fifteen members each and meet once a week for Bible study, work and play. Besides this an Ames gospel team was at Sutherland for a week during the holidays and eight boys were converted; thirteen boys attended the Inter-County Older Boys' Conference and four were converted, a three-day Ames short course was held at Sutherland and reached one hundred and twenty-five farmers, and one at Primghar that reached two hundred and twenty-five farmers; five lectures concerning hog cholera were heard by over one thousand hog raisers and other cooperative events were held or supplemented in the different communities.

The ultimate aim of the county committee is to have a group within easy walking distance of every boy in the county and have programs for these groups that appeal to the class of boys that compose the group. Also to co-operate with all movements for the best interest of the people of O'Brien county as a whole and each community in particular, and, by cooperating with the Iowa State College of Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture, make O'Brien county the best county of the best state in the Union, and this can be done by making better boys. "Give the boys a chance."—Abraham Lincoln.

CHAPTER XXIII.

LODGES OF THE COUNTY.

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS.

In all well developed countries, where religion and the higher order of civilized life obtains, are found lodges of this most ancient and honorable order. There are numerous lodges within O'Brien county, including the following, of which only a brief outline history can be given in this connection:

Rising Star Lodge No. 496, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, received dispensation from the grand master under date of April 18, 1888, to organize a lodge at Sanborn and on April 24, 1888, it held its first meeting, officers being as follows: J. B. Dunn, worshipful master; W. S. Armstrong, senior warden; F. A. Turner, junior warden; J. S. Nye, treasurer; E. L. Ballou, secretary; C. H. Winterble, senior deacon; Thomas T. McMann, junior deacon; H. E. Thayer and George J. North, stewards; George M. Shuck, tyler; D. Algyer, chaplain.

The charter members included the above and James Shaw, G. W. Alexander, James D. Wilson, Thomas Rollins, E. C. Foskett and W. H. Brown. Masters since the organization have been as follows: J. B. Dunn, W. S. Armstrong, C. H. Slocum, David Algyer, J. S. Nye, S. A. Carter, J. E. Stott, E. J. English, R. Hinman, Alexander Stewart, W. W. Artherholt, D. H. Smith, H. A. Mitchell, J. P. Knox, O. H. Montzheimer. The present membership is eighty-seven and the present officers are: O. H. Montzheimer, master; D. B. Shearer, senior warden; E. E. Richards, junior warden; R. Hinman, treasurer; J. S. Nye, secretary; David McCreath, senior deacon; J. H. Knox, junior deacon; W. A. Rosecrans and Alex McCreath, stewards; J. S. Nye, Jr., tyler.

Samara Chapter No. 105, Royal Arch Masons, was instituted at Sanborn August 23, 1883, special dispensation having issued by the grand high priest of Iowa under date of August 7, 1883. The first officers were: George H. Olmsted, high priest; T. J. Alexander, king; Cal Bradstreet, scribe; H. D. Chapin, captain of host; Harley Day, principal sojourner; George B. Davids,

royal arch captain; E. M. Brady, master of third veil; George W. Schee, master of second veil; George McCulloch, master of first veil.

On August 2, 1900, by order of Grand High Priest N. B. Hyatt, issued in pursuance of vote of the chapter previously held, the chapter was removed to Primghar, where it has since been located, being the only chapter of Royal Arch Masons in the county. Those who have held the office of high priest are George H. Olmsted, Cal Bradstreet, William Harker, J. H. Wolf, Harley Day, O. H. Montzheimer, Alexander Stewart and Roy King. The present membership is eighty-three. The present officers are: Roy King, high priest; Arch Shearer, king; William Ortman, scribe; R. Hinman, treasurer; J. S. Nye, secretary; Alex. Stewart, captain of host; H. B. Bossert, principal sojourner; D. Shearer, royal arch captain; Jess Byers, master third veil; Alex McCreath, master second veil; Ed. Fritche, master first veil; J. B. See, sentinel.

Primghar Chapter No. 241, Order of the Eastern Star, was instituted June 22, 1898, with the following first officers: Miss Ella Seckerson, worthy matron; Ralph Hinman, worthy patron; Mrs. Fannie Stott, associate matron; J. S. Nye, secretary; J. E. Stott, treasurer; Miss Merte Rogers, conductor; Miss Glo Stearns, associate conductor; Mrs. Eva Stearns, Adah; Mrs. Carrie Armstrong, Ruth; Mrs. Jennie Montzheimer, Esther; Mrs. Emma Williams, Martha; Mrs. May Rosecrans, Electa; H. L. Williams, warder; W. A. Rosecrans, sentinel.

The present officers are: Mrs. May Rosecrans, worthy matron; Roy King, worthy patron; Miss Edith Brown, associate matron; R. E. Langley, secretary; Jennie Montzheimer, treasurer; Mrs. Nellie Olander, conductor; Mrs. Ethel Wolf, associate conductor; Mrs. Minnie Metcalf, chaplain; Miss Ethel Shearer, Adah; Mrs. Harriet Hinman, Ruth; Mrs. Marie Bossert, Esther; Mrs. Edith King, Martha; Mrs. Vida Peck, Electa; Mrs. Jessie Hinz, warder; Alex. Stewart, sentinel; Miss Dorothy Stamp, marshal; Mrs. Hilma Thatcher, organist. Number of members at present time, one hundred and twenty-two.

According to the statement of David Alger, of Paullina, in his history of the town, the history of Fulton Lodge No. 499, is as follows:

On the 16th day of June, 1888, by authority of the grand lodge of Iowa, a dispensation was granted to J. D. Laudi, John V. Adkins, W. H. Barber, George Haase, Stephen Harris, George Hakeman, A. Hanson, W. W. Johnson, C. R. Waterman, W. N. Dunham, Jacob Fisch, J. C. Doling, A. C. Dunn, W. H. Wilkerson, and George P. Buell to organize a Masonic lodge in Paullina, to be known as Fulton Lodge No. 499, Ancient Free and Ac-

cepted Masons. These brethren, having been faithful to their trust and efficient in their workmanship, were on the 4th day of June, 1889, granted a charter. The first officers of Fulton Lodge were: J. D. Laudi, worshipful master; John V. Adkins, senior warden; W. H. Barber, junior warden; George Hakeman, treasurer; George P. Buell, secretary; Stephen Harris, senior deacon; A. C. Dunn, junior deacon; George Veeder, senior steward; A. Hanson, junior steward; C. R. Waterman, tyler. The lodge has grown and prospered and has a membership of seventy-four Master Masons and the following named have served as worshipful masters since its organization: J. D. Laudi, J. V. Adkins, S. Harris, George P. Buell, George Veeder, Edward Bachman, Henry Scott, David Algyer, and F. V. D. Bogert.

On the 23rd day of October, 1901, a charter from the grand chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Iowa was granted to the following named ladies of Paullina: Mrs. Marie S. Algyer, Mrs. A. W. Adkins, Mrs. Z. Dudley, Mrs. Ruth Fitton, Miss Helen Algyer, Mrs. Minnie Henderson, Mrs. Kate Hendry, Mrs. Byrdette Harris, Miss Nettie Metcalf, Mrs. Harriet E. Moffit, Mrs. Annie L. Pratt, Mrs. Laura Veeder, Mrs. M. J. Williamson, Mrs. L. A. Wollenberg, Mrs. A. Watts and Mrs. Ella Warner, to organize Sweet Brier Chapter No. 299 at Paullina. The first officers of the chapter were: Mrs. Marie S. Algyer, worthy matron; J. V. Adkins, worthy patron; Mrs. Annie L. Pratt, associate matron. The chapter is in a flourishing condition with the following officers: Mrs. Byrdette Harris, worthy matron; F. V. D. Bogert, worthy patron; Mrs. Gertrude Bogert, associate matron; Mrs. B. J. Maytom, conductress; Mrs. Helen Raak, assistant conductress; Mrs. J. V. Adkins, treasurer, and Miss Lena Moorhead, secretary.

Beacon Lodge No. 495, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Hartley, was instituted March 10, 1888, with the following charter members: John I. Story, D. T. Stewart, E. B. Messer, F. L. Searls, Frank Patch, John W. Lothian, R. G. Allen, M. L. Gilbert, Peter Sitler, Frank L. McOmber, A. J. Brock, T. M. Corns, W. S. Fuller, C. H. Westfall, R. Hodgson, Sr.

The first list of officers were: John I. Story, worshipful master; D. T. Stewart, senior warden; E. B. Messer, junior warden; F. L. McOmber, senior deacon; A. J. Brock, junior deacon; R. G. Allen, senior steward; C. H. Westfall, junior steward; Frank Patch, secretary; W. S. Fuller, treasurer; Peter Sitler, tyler; W. G. Lothian, chaplain. The lodge now has a membership of ninety-seven. The second floor of the Stewart building, on the west side of Main street, has been occupied by this lodge since 1901. The elective officers in November, 1913, were: H. T. Broders, worshipful

master; H. J. Grotewohl, senior warden; C. C. Planck, junior warden; R. O. Rumann, secretary; Frank Patch, treasurer; F. A. Conn, senior deacon; Charles Boyce, junior deacon; A. Teakle, senior steward; C. H. Westfall, junior steward; John Haynes, tyler; G. R. Gilbert, chaplain.

Abiff Lodge No. 347, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, at Sutherland, was instituted June 7, 1876, by the subjoined persons: D. H. Wheeler, J. C. Doling, A. H. Willett, C. W. Inman, E. C. Brown, G. W. Schee, Harley Day, Elmer C. Faskett, William H. Brown, S. J. Jordan, William Pursell, Moses Dimon, John T. Stearns, James Wykoff, A. B. Husted. R. C. Jordan is present worshipful master; Leigh Drake, senior warden; H. H. Hendrick, junior warden; F. L. Nichols, secretary; H. N. McMaster, treasurer. The present membership is about seventy-four. The lodge owns their own hall, valued at fifteen thousand dollars. Every member is paid up to date and every past master's picture hangs upon the walls of the lodge room. It will be observed that this lodge is in a flourishing condition and must stand for the good things to be enjoyed by the great fraternity.

At Sanborn, Onyx Lodge No. 419, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was instituted in 1909. Its officers are: W. H. Wheaton, worshipful master; C. H. Barber, senior warden; A. V. Brady, junior warden; H. H. Britton, secretary. The present membership is one hundred. The lodge leases its hall. The past masters have been: D. Barker, C. S. Cornell, F. W. Horton, J. A. Johnson, G. W. McFarland, H. Vanderlip, T. Zimmerman.

Mistletoe Lodge No. 376, at Sheldon, was instituted June 20, 1876, by the following persons: H. B. Wyman, E. M. Winslow, J. C. Elliott, J. A. Brown, S. W. Harrington, J. D. Bunce, E. A. Ward, Robert Sturgeon, J. A. Wagner, A. E. Frear, O. A. Borden, W. J. Dunham, W. J. Newell, W. N. Strong. The present officers are: F. E. Frisbee, worshipful master; C. L. Dixon, senior warden; F. J. Brown, junior warden; E. A. James, senior deacon; F. W. Miller, junior deacon; Benjamin Jones, treasurer; Scott Martin, secretary; C. B. Brownslow, tyler. The lodge now has a membership of one hundred and twenty-two. The past masters of this lodge have been: H. B. Wyman, J. C. Elliott, W. N. Strong, Ed C. Brown, F. Howard, W. D. Boies, O. P. Mabec, D. E. Dean, P. W. Hall, James Cowie, H. J. Cram, A. J. Walsmith, H. E. Palmer, J. R. Elliott, H. J. Brackney, F. E. Frisbee. The blue lodge is all of Masonry that is represented at Sheldon.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS.

Odd Fellowship has long had a stronghold in O'Brien county. The fraternity now has prosperous lodges in various parts of the county, including the following who have kindly furnished the facts for the author:

At Hartley there is what is known as Hartley Lodge No. 507, which was instituted October 23, 1890. Among the first members were: F. N. Drake, L. C. Green, Frank Kelley, J. E. Wheelock and C. E. West. The 1913 elective officers are William Franke, noble grand; H. C. Gunnerman, vice-grand; C. Boyce, secretary; J. F. Eichner, financial secretary; D. C. Maass, treasurer. In 1900 the lodge erected a fine hall, costing three thousand dollars. Three degrees of the order are represented in Hartley, and the total membership is ninety.

There is also a lodge of this fraternity at Sanborn, known as No. 434, and also an encampment. The bodies here are in a prosperous condition and are a power for good in the surrounding community, as the rule is to properly exemplify the teachings of the order. There is a lodge at Sheldon.

Paullina Lodge No. 483, of Odd Fellows, was instituted on the 9th day of February, 1885, and the following officers elected at that time: W. F. Clark, noble grand; W. R. Johnson, vice-grand; George Hakeman, secretary; W. W. Johnson, treasurer; T. Lasson, inside guard; I. L. Rerick, warden; C. S. Paul, right supporter noble grand; W. W. Johnson, right supporter vice grand; C. A. Collett, left supporter vice grand. The lodge was organized by E. R. Wood, district deputy grand master, with eight charter members, being W. R. Johnson, Theodore Larson, W. F. Clark, C. S. Paul, C. A. Collett, I. L. Rerick, George Hakeman and W. W. Johnson.

The members who have served as noble grand of the lodge are: W. F. Clark, W. R. Johnson, O. D. Hamstreet, George P. Buell, J. P. Bossert, J. W. Bunker, I. L. Rerick, A. Thompson, J. D. Smith, L. N. B. LaRue, James Manley, W. J. McCauley, A. P. Jacobs, George Carfield, George Veeder, A. W. Proctor, George Hodgdon, William Steen, C. Meltvedt, W. T. Winn, S. R. Hovland, F. M. Bethel, M. L. Peterson, J. L. Delmage, A. W. Barney, Charles Ihle, J. R. Gruver, W. M. Sutter, M. Zimmerman, W. A. Hamilton, Charles Delmage, H. M. Sutter, A. Meltveldt, Elmer Bryson, J. E. Thompson, Albert Ihle, Theo. Moll, H. G. Culp, John Tjossem, Carl Krull, Oscar Wallquist and George Miller. The lodge has enjoyed a good, wholesome growth.

Wild Rose Lodge No. 294, Daughters of Rebekah, at Paullina, has the

subjoined history in brief: It was October 21, 1904, when a large number of wives and daughters of members of the Odd Fellows fraternity at this point organized a lodge. It now has a membership of one hundred and seven.

Sutherland Lodge No. 415, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized October 20, 1887, with James Parks as noble grand; H. A. Peck, vice grand; C. H. Brintnall, secretary; B. Thompson, treasurer. Other charter members were James Park, F. L. Bidwell, I. D. Modesitt, Thomas Short, Thomas Bethel. The lodge now enjoys a total membership of eighty-two. They erected a substantial hall in 1911, twenty-five by one hundred feet, at a cost of nine thousand dollars. Three degrees of the order are here represented. The officers (elective) in the fall of 1913 were as follows: Fedder Feddersen, noble grand; W. M. Andrews, vice grand; F. W. Huber, secretary; George Braungard, financial secretary; R. W. Boyd, treasurer.

Pringhar Lodge No. 506, at Pringhar, was organized October 23, 1890, with the following membership: F. M. McCormack, W. H. Noyes, J. R. Borland, H. O. Smith, Hans Johnson, Frank A. Turner and E. H. Cook. The first noble grand was H. O. Smith, and the vice grand was R. P. Jones. The present (fall of 1913) officers are: Alexander McCreth, noble grand; Thomas Irvin, vice grand; R. P. Jones, secretary; W. H. Brown, financial secretary; J. B. Sanders, treasurer. The lodge now has a membership of eighty-four. The lodge was organized in the court house and the first night there were twenty-one new members initiated into the fraternity. For a time lodge was held over the creamery and later was removed to the store room of the Noyes building, which later was destroyed by fire. Then the lodge, feeling the need of permanent quarters, in connection with Jacob Wolf of the *Bell* newspaper office, erected the present fine brick building on the corner of Main and Cross streets, facing the south. In this building, which was erected in 1895, the order has a fine lodge room and all the furniture needed to carry on the work of the subordinate lodge. The part owned by the Odd Fellows—the second story—cost between five and six thousand dollars. The Yeomen and Woodmen lodges have from time to time leased from the Odd Fellows. A Rebekah lodge was organized a few years after the original organization of the Odd Fellows lodge and still supports the order in excellent shape. Among the men who have served as noble grands may be recalled the following: H. O. Smith, R. P. Jones, M. S. Metcalf, J. B. Sanders, Richard Gray, George Kruse (deceased), A. V. Conway (deceased), Henry Johnson (deceased), W. H. Christopher, Thomas Byers,

Thomas Kamera, Frank Edington, John Irvin, W. H. Brown, W. N. Hulbert, John A. King, John F. Doyle, Charlie R. Asquith, James Beers, Bert Bertelson and George D. Smith.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.

The Knights of Pythias lodge at Sheldon has been written up by one of its worthy leading members in the following style—rather unique:

"If we shall depart from the stale usage of identifying ourself by a number, as though we were an 'item' of stock in trade or some such thing, and insist that our name is our identity in the community in which we live, and elsewhere, and accordingly introduce the reader to Malta, Knights of Pythias, the reader will understand Malta has some reasons satisfactory to itself for doing so.

"Our reasons are historical, and probably too abstruse to interest the uninitiated. Let it be said, Malta stands quite alone among the many subordinates—not in the least subordinate, but paramount and excellent in the precepts of a ritualism at once sublime, far-reaching and appealing to every better instinct of man, and making itself especially attractive to decent men.

"There is a reason for Malta, among the many, and the foregoing, conscientiously practiced, is the reason. It is the reason why Malta will celebrate her quarter century anniversary August 7, 1914, with a membership considerably in excess of one hundred.

"In that quarter of a century, Malta has witnessed the decay of every castle hall in this county, but one, more recently organized, and the single one in which Malta had no part.

"Malta has seen the wreckage of Hartley, Sanborn, Primghar, Sutherland, Rock Rapids, LeMars, Sioux Centre, Hull, and some few more distant places, washed with the ebb and flow of what once promised to be pleasant seas. But the men at the wheel and in the chart house failed in the critical time when channels varied from the marked course, and hidden reefs were uncharted.

"Of the twenty-two men who accepted charter for Malta, August 7, 1889, PP. XXV, eight are active members today.

"Early in their experience it was observed one cannot have mental reservations in taking solemn obligations,—extraordinary obligations as binding as any oath known to man,—and then fail therein, with any greater degree of esteem by one's neighbors than any other form of perjury.

"Moved by such meditations, these men carefully nurtured the future

of Malta by the admission of those, in the main, who could and would easily accept the standard set for them.

"With sincerity of purpose, it was also observed that efficiency in ritualism is of first importance in dignity and spirit of the organization.

"The same spirit controlled the Uniform Rank company, which disbanded after having taken three consecutive first prizes, with statewide competition, for excellency in the manual of arms and full company movements, as prescribed by the judges. The greatest performance was the complete manual of arm and company movements on a baseball diamond in seventeen minutes, with no error charged to the work.

"Such a thing as a pre-arranged set of officers, or 'slate,' has never been and would not be tolerated, if attempted.

"Harmony is another word for friendship, in knighthood, at least, and among the Maltese men friendship is not endangered by any individual's ambition.

"Malta declines, emphatically, to indulge in any of the noisy and clap-trap methods, sometimes prescribed; neither does Malta tolerate dissipation in any form; but of fun and frolic of the wholesome kind, there is plenty. Every meeting night after business, a smoker, or musical by the quartet, are among the usual features.

"Those who were officers twenty-five years ago, those who are officers today, and those who will be after the first of each year cannot possibly interest the reader."

Purity Lodge No. 196, at Calumet, was organized in January, 1908, and now has a membership of fifty-two. The first officers were: F. Nott, chancellor commander; George Reifsteck, vice chancellor; Gene Grant, prelate; Thomas Rehder, keeper of records and seal; Fred Smith, master of exchequer; E. Mann, master of finance. The order leases a hall over the business house of Mr. Fleer, on the south side of Main street. The 1913 elective officers were: Webb Clark, chancellor commander; Honnis Weise, vice chancellor; Gene Grant, prelate; Guy Bidwell, master at arms; J. Redmann, master of work; Ollie Sohm, keeper of records and seal; George Reifsteck, master of exchequer. The past chancellors have been C. S. Sievers, George Reifsteck, E. W. Miller, J. H. Doling, F. Nott.

Empire Lodge No. 202, Knights of Pythias, at Sutherland, was chartered October 3, 1888; has a membership of seventy-six, and leases a hall. The present officers are: C. J. Phillips, chancellor commander; George Butler, vice chancellor; F. L. Nichols, secretary; Ed. Briggs, treasurer.

CHAPTER XXIV.

TOWNS AND TOWNSHIPS.

O'Brien county is now divided into seventeen sub-divisions, or civil townships. The following is an historical account of these townships, including the various towns situated within their borders. In most instances the schools and churches of the townships are found within separate general chapters of this work, hence have not been repeated in these township histories.

The incorporated towns of O'Brien county are Sheldon, Sanborn, Hartley, Moneta, Archer, Pringhar, Calumet, Paullina and Sutherland. Its unincorporated towns are Gaza, Plessis and Germantown. Its elevator stations are Ritter, Evander, Max and Waterman Siding.

CITY GOVERNMENT.

The incorporated town is under the immediate city or town government composed of a mayor, city or town council, city clerk or recorder, city attorney or solicitor, marshal, street commissioner, and other city officials and committees. The school governmental affairs are noted in the Educational chapter. Sundry town, township and school items will be considered under other various heads and articles.

NAMES OF TOWNSHIPS.

The townships of the county are Hartley, Lincoln, Franklin, Floyd, Sheldon, Omega, Center, Summit, Carroll, Grant, Highland, Dale, Baker, Waterman, Liberty, Union and Caledonia.

The townships of the county as numbered north from the mouth of the Arkansas river, according to the system of land surveys in Iowa, are numbered 94, 95, 96 and 97, and the ranges, which are numbered from the east line of Jones county in Iowa, are numbered 39, 40, 41 and 42.

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT.

Each township in O'Brien county is six miles square except Sheldon township, the seventeenth, which is made to conform to the city limits and was formed that the town might always have within the town two justices of the peace. Sheldon township also breaks into Floyd and Carroll to that extent. Summit township also includes all those parts of Center, Highland and Dale within the city limits of Pringhar. Each township has two justices of the peace who have a jurisdiction up to one hundred dollars, and up to three hundred dollars by consent of the parties. This court can also impose fines to extent of one hundred dollars and commit or sentence to the jail of the county to the extent of thirty days. This court has sundry other duties. The justice may perform the marriage ceremony. A township has three trustees and a clerk, who deals with township matters, including road work and certain drainage matters, boundary-line items, court of fence viewers, deal with trespasses of domestic animals, making township levies and other duties. The road supervisor is the executive officer in many of these duties. These trustees and the clerk manage and act as judges of election. The assessor makes the assessments of property and other returns. The township officials in the main make their reports to the county auditor. A township can neither sue nor be sued, this being a protection to the people as against the frequent fluctuations in membership of this body of men. As a rule the school districts are laid off with reference to township lines, though meandering streams and other conditions at times prevents this. It is not a necessity. The independent district of Pringhar has territory in the four townships of Summit, Center, Highland and Dale. Sutherland school territory includes parts of Waterman, Liberty and Grant. The independent district of Hartley includes parts of Hartley, Omega, Lincoln and Center. The independent district of Sheldon has territory in Floyd, Sheldon and Carroll townships in O'Brien county and quite a large territory also in Sioux county. This question of school independent districts holding territory in more than one county gave rise to considerable litigation in its early organization, owing to the fact that the people of Sioux county resisted same, but Sheldon's proximity to the county line made it necessary and the courts sustained Sheldon's reasonable necessities.

PLATTING OF TOWNS AND ADDITIONS.

The following is a list of the plattings of the several towns and additions thereto, with the names of persons platting same and dates thereof. It will not mean the dates of the first beginnings of the towns, as in some cases the actual plattings occurred after the towns were in fact started. This list will mean the record plattings, and will illustrate the dates and periods of the general growths and demands of the several towns for enlargements, as the towns have grown.

Sheldon.

- Original town, January 3, 1873, by the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad.
First Addition, July 16, 1875, by the railroad.
Second Addition, September 26, 1879, by the railroad.
Third Addition, October 25, 1883, by the railroad.
Fourth Addition, September 11, 1883, by Frank H. Nash and Scott M. Ladd.
Fifth Addition, July 23, 1888, by O. M. Barrett and William H. Sleeper.
Sixth Addition, May 29, 1893, by Henry C. Lane.
Seventh Addition, April 25, 1894, by Henry C. Lane.
Eighth Addition, March 25, 1904, by James Griffin.
Bishop's Addition, May 4, 1892, by J. W. Bishop.
Dean's Addition, August 11, 1896, by Stephen S. Dean.
Normal College Addition, May 29, 1893, by Henry C. Lane.
Drake's Outlots or Addition, November 15, 1894, by executors of Elias F. Drake.
Sunny Side Addition, July 17, 1895, by Angeline Donovan.

Phinghar.

- Original town, November 8, 1872, by W. C. Green and James Roberts.
Brock & Stearns' Addition, May 24, 1876, by A. J. Brock and John T. Stearns.
Schee & Stearns' Addition, November 3, 1887, by Geo. W. Schee and John T. Stearns.
Shuck's Addition, May 3, 1887, by E. W. Shuck.
Shuck's Second Addition, December 30, 1887, by E. W. Shuck.
Peck & Shuck's Addition, August 17, 1887, by J. L. E. Peck and E. W. Shuck.

Derby & Rowan's Addition, September 1, 1887, and January 28, 1888, by F. N. Derby and James Rowan.

Slocum, Turner & Armstrong's Addition, September 5, 1887, by George R. Slocum, Frank A. Turner and William S. Armstrong.

Sunborn.

Original town, December 18, 1878, by Jonathan A. Stocum and John Lawler.

Teabout's Addition, May 9, 1885, by J. L. Green and Frank Teabout.

Alexander's Addition, February 13, 1883, by T. J. Alexander.

Highland Park Addition, May 26, 1892, by M. M. Burns, G. H. Klein, E. J. Hatch and R. P. Edson.

Phelps' Addition, April 3, 1893, by D. R. Phelps.

Hartley.

Original town, January 15, 1881, by J. S. Finster and Horace E. Hoagland.

Mickey's Addition, August 8, 1889, by W. A. Mickey.

Crossan's First Addition, October 22, 1886, by Allen Crossan.

Crossan's Second Addition, September 22, 1887, by Allen Crossan.

Crossan's Third Addition, June 30, 1888, by Allen Crossan.

Woodward's Addition, December 17, 1887, by R. A. Woodward.

Brown's Addition, July 15, 1890, by W. L. and Isaac Brown.

Patch's Addition, September 7, 1895, by Frank Patch, F. A. Ahrens and J. H. Capcius.

Crossan's Park Addition, April 16, 1896, by Frank Patch.

Nelson's Addition, June 30, 1888, by Bertha Nelson.

Young's Addition, April 14, 1896, by M. J. Young.

Young's Pleasant Hill Addition, October 23, 1896, by M. J. Young.

Patton's Addition, March, 1914, by J. W. Patton.

Mar.

Town or station of Max, April 21, 1900, by J. K. McAndrew.

Moneta.

Town of Moneta, May 17, 1901, by Charles H. Colby.

Plessis or Cyreno.

This town was first platted as Cyreno, by Gustav Wells, April 3, 1900. but owing to the fact that there was another town by that name in the state it was later changed.

Archer.

Town of Archer, February 10, 1888, by William Van Epps and Charles E. McKinney.

Paullina.

Town of Paullina, December 31, 1881, by Western Town Lot Company.
Harker & Greene's Addition, August 22, 1885, by William Harker and J. L. Greene.

Out Lots K. to S., June 6, 1899, by Western Town Lot Company.
Blocks 25 to 31, August 22, 1904.

Sutherland.

Original town, March 6, 1882, by Western Town Lot Company.
Freimark's Addition, May 6, 1882, by Julius Freimark.
Lutzell's Addition, May 13, 1882, by Nicholas Lutzell.
Bonath's Addition, July 6, 1882, by August Bonath.
Peck's Addition, April 13, 1883, by Horace Peck.

Town of Calumet.

Original town, November 12, 1887, by Western Town Lot Company.
W. B. Morse Addition, June 3, 1893, by W. B. Morse, Mary E. Stewart and George W. Louthan.

First Addition, January 20, 1900, by Western Town Lot Company.
W. M. Bunce First Addition, May 18, 1895, by W. M. Bunce.
W. M. Bunce Second Addition, March 27, 1895, by W. M. Bunce.
W. M. Bunce Third Addition, December 3, 1906, by W. M. Bunce.

Woodstock or Gaza.

This town was first platted and named Woodstock and later changed to Gaza by reason of there being another town in the state by that name.

Germantown.

Germantown, June 10, 1901, by Fred Kluender, George Eggert and Edward Beerman.

TOWN PLATS OF THE COUNTY.

The following are the descriptions by section, township and range of the sundry town plats of O'Brien county from the earliest to the present date:

The first village platting was that which surveyor J. H. Davenport executed for what was known as "O'Brien," situated in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 36, township 94, range 39, consisting of a forty-acre tract. It was dated August 23, 1861 (page 1 of book "A," Deed Records). The original description, as made of the town plat by County Surveyor Davenport, is written on a sheet of legal cap, which was pasted later to the first page of the county's deed record book, and it is a curiosity for several reasons. Among these may be mentioned the fact that the surveyor thoughtlessly stated in the record that the principal streets were to be fifty-four feet and thirteen inches in width, meaning of course fifty-five feet and one inch wide. The survey was made in August, 1861—the opening year of the great Civil War, and, strange to relate, the streets were named in many instances after men who became prominent in putting down the Rebellion, for example there was Lincoln street, Hooker street, Sherman street and Grant street.

The land on which O'Brien was platted was in what is known as Waterman civil township. It was sold to the county, or rather to John H. Irwin, Robert A. Queen and Samuel L. Berry, for five hundred dollars, by William M. Snow and wife, April 12, 1859.

This was the original town platting of O'Brien county, but was long since used for farming purposes, as the town site never developed into a real live town. However, it was the first county seat.

Pringhar was platted November 8, 1872, on section 36, township 96, range 41. The names of the proprietors, as shown by record, were W. C. Green and wife and James Roberts.

Sheldon was platted January 3, 1873, on section 31, township 97, range 42, by the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad Company.

Sanborn was platted January 8, 1879, on the west half of the northeast

quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 35, township 97, range 41, by J. A. Stocum and wife.

Hartley was platted April 18, 1881, on section 32, township 97, range 39, by E. N. Finster, J. S. Finster, Horace E. Hoogland and wife.

Paullina was platted January 20, 1882, on section 9, township 94, range 41, by the Western Town Lot Company.

Sutherland was platted March 21, 1882, on section 7, township 94, range 39, by the Western Town Lot Company.

Calumet was platted November 16, 1887, on section 22, township 94, range 40, by the Cherokee and Western Town Lot Company.

Gaza was platted as "Woodstock," April 18, 1888, on section 28, township 95, range 40, by the Cherokee & Western Town Lot Company.

Archer was platted August 25, 1888, on section 24, township 96, range 42, by William Van Epps and wife, Charles E. Kinney and wife.

Max was platted July 11, 1899, on the northwest quarter of section 32, township 97, range 40, by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company. This platting is within Lincoln township.

Germantown was platted June 10, 1901, on sections 22 and 23 of township 94, range 42, by Edward D. Beerman.

Moireta was platted May 10, 1901, on sections 13 and 24, township 96, range 39.

Cyreno (later and now called Plessis) was platted August 15, 1901, on section 10, township 97, range 40, by Gustav and Lena Wills.

Ritter was platted as a station point on the Chicago, Minneapolis & St. Paul railroad, on section 5, of Floyd township. It is a new town and naturally has but little business importance at this date.

Plessis, a new town site, platted on the southeast of section 10, Lincoln township, is a station point on the Rock Island system, northwest from Hartley.

The vicinity of Eric postoffice on section 33, township 94, range 40, was platted as "South O'Brien," by John H. Roe and Frank E. and Emma E. Whitmore, April 15, 1872, on the northeast quarter of section 33, township 94, range 40. It never amounted to anything and was finally vacated by O. H. Montzheimer and wife (owners) in full of the original plat. It was legally vacated on April 30, 1892.

TOWN AND TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENTS.

The city and town governments in O'Brien county are managed and conducted by a mayor, a city council of five members, a treasurer, clerk or

recorder, assessor, marshal, fire marshal, city physician, city solicitor and such other officials and committees as situations demand. The town council is in effect the legislative or law-making power in the passage of ordinances which become the laws of the town. This council becomes and organizes as the local board of health. It manages the revenues and finances of the town. The mayor is the executive officer, and as a court, in addition to enforcing the ordinances, has largely the jurisdiction of a justice of the peace, both in criminal and civil matters. The town may own or manage all needed public utilities. They are the city fathers.

TOWNSHIPS.

The townships are managed by a board of three trustees, a clerk, assessor and road supervisors. Each township has two and may under certain conditions have four justices of the peace. This is in reality the people's court. It comes nearer in touch with the people than any other court. The justices may render judgments for one hundred dollars and by consent of parties up to three hundred dollars. A justice's jury consists of six jurors. Constables, two in each township, execute and serve the writs and notices of the court. The justice may perform the marriage ceremony, deals with estrays, may act as coroner in his absence, and perform sundry lesser duties. The trustees expend the township funds and oversee all road questions and act as fence viewers and determine questions arising by trespass of stock, make the township levies, and act as a township health board and other duties. The assessor makes the property assessments for the township. The road supervisors manage the road work. It is one peculiar feature of a township that it can neither sue nor be sued in the courts of Iowa. This becomes a protection to a township. It is so done for the reason that townships at best are indefinite in the perpetuation of their records. Indeed, this is true to such an extent that many townships do not at all times maintain a full set of officials and vacancies and resignations and removals are numerous.

FLOYD TOWNSHIP AND CITY OF SHELTON.

On April 1, 1872, what is now Floyd township was set apart from Liberty and what is now Franklin was detached from Center and the two called Floyd, and the first election was held at the house of John D. Butler, on the northwest quarter section 22, in the township. Floyd township was named after Sargent Floyd, who, in 1803, made the long voyage of dis-

covery along with and as part of the Lewis and Clark expedition up the Missouri river to the Pacific coast. On the return trip this young soldier died of a fever on board a Missouri river transport and was buried in a lonely bluff near the river. Later his remains were removed to, and a fine monument erected to his memory on, a slightly bluff just to the south of the city. The Floyd river was also named in his honor.

This is the extreme northwestern subdivision of O'Brien county. The Floyd river courses its way through the township from the northeast to the southwest. The Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Omaha railroad line extends through the western portion of the territory, with station points at Sheldon and Ritter, while the Illinois Central (Sioux Falls and Cherokee division) clips the southwestern corner at Sheldon. The Milwaukee railroad runs through the entire southern tier of sections.

This township had a population of five hundred and seventy-five in 1910. It has some of the finest land and best improvements to be seen in all northwestern Iowa. Sheldon, the largest town in the county, is noted for being full of the spirit of genuine modern enterprise and industry. It made a hard fight in years gone by for the county seat, but was foiled by the decision of the masses, who believed that the center of the county was the proper place for the seat of justice.

EARLY SETTLERS.

During 1871 the following persons came to Floyd township for the purpose of making permanent settlement. Commencing with John Hart, who settled on the southeast quarter of section 14, where he resided continually until 1896, then removed to Missouri.

J. W. Davis settled here in 1871, on the southeast quarter of section 22, but in a few years left for other parts, later settling in Missouri, where he died in 1911. He was a blacksmith and had a shop on his claim. Daniel Gress lived in this township a number of years and fought grasshoppers on the northeast quarter of section 2, while his son, William, located on the southeast quarter of the same section. The elder Gress finally retired in Sanborn. Charles Whitsell of section 18. C. H. Lingenfelter located on the southeast quarter of section 6, later removed to Wisconsin. Calvin Hook, noted music teacher, on the southwest of section 36, later moved to Hull, Iowa. David Chrisman settled in the township in 1871, on the northwest quarter of section 2 and later years lived in Sanborn. Others who added to the settlement in 1871 were John D. Butler and son, John H., who

selected their claims. The former located on the northeast quarter of section 22 and the latter on the northwest quarter of the same section. They wintered near Cherokee and returned in the spring of 1872, and both built a sod shack. The first election in Floyd township was held in J. W. Davis's sod claim shack in the fall of that year.

C. W. Copping settled on the southwest quarter of section 14, while his brother, E. J., located on the southwest quarter of section 24, both coming in 1872. The grasshoppers made it so uncomfortable for these settlers that they finally left the county.

Other settlers of about the date of 1871-72 were Timothy Donaghue of section 36 (Mr. Donaghue in later years was a member of the State Legislature of Iowa); E. R. Gregg, in the spring of 1872 on the southeast quarter of section 24. Both he and Eliza W. Gregg moved away during the days of grasshoppers; P. C. and A. W. Hicks settled on section 4 in 1872; the same year came C. W. Beach to the southeast quarter of section 36. Then followed Lyman Kellogg on section 6; H. H. Hawley on the southwest quarter of section 22; he was a local preacher and left the county many years since. Robert J. Cliff came in 1872, as did also J. M. Van Kirk. When Van Kirk took his claim several persons wanted the same land—four in all. They reached Sioux City on the same train and there was nothing left by which the claim could be decided, save a foot race, and this they all vigorously entered into, but Van Kirk was the fleetest and entered the land office first, yelling at the top of his voice, "I want to file on the east half of the northeast quarter of 32 in 97. 42," and mingled with the last of his words was a chorus of the same from the rest of them. He was given the land.

Isaac M. White settled on the southeast quarter of section 32 in 1872 and William Whitsell, the same year, claimed land in section 36. John M. Wood settled on section 28 in 1872, but later removed to Sheldon. John F. Walters claimed the southwest quarter of section 28, where he died a few years later. Edward Wells took the southwest quarter of section 4 and remained many years. In 1872 L. S. Stone claimed the northwest quarter of section 18. He at once planted out a very large, nice grove, which grew rapidly and was known far and near as Stone's Grove.

We come now to speak more especially of the first settler, who was Thomas Robinson, who came to the township in the month of May, 1870, and laid claim to the east half of the southwest quarter of section 30, on which he broke three acres that summer, and put up a shack in which to live. He wintered elsewhere the following season and returned in 1871, and cross-plowed the three acres. He brought his family in 1871 and he there resided

until his death in 1882. He was a man of deep thought, a good writer and withal a very conscientious man. He had seven children, all well known in this county in later years.

Three of Warren Potter's sons came in the fall of 1870. These were Lyman, William and John Potter. They drove through from Wisconsin, landing in Cherokee, where they were advised by relatives to look over O'Brien county, so, with Mr. Sprague to pilot them, they finally landed in Floyd township. Lyman selected land in section 8, and John H. took the south half of the section. William was not yet old enough to file. They went to the land office at Sioux City and made their filings and the next spring returned, built shacks and became actual settlers. The father, Warren Potter, came in the early spring of 1871, settling on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 8, and Eugene, another son, on the north half of the same quarter. The Potter boys raised some corn on the land broken the year before.

A. B. Hicks came to the township in 1870, settling on the southeast of section 18. He started the first grove in Floyd township. After several years he removed to the Pacific coast, where a few years later he died. Ben Jensen settled the northwest of section 32 in 1870, built a typical sod house and remained there until 1876, then pushed on further west. Swan Peterson came with Jensen and claimed the northwest of section 32, and he also moved west in 1876. He was a man possessing an inventive turn of mind and was working on a perpetual motion machine which he hoped, of course, to make a fortune out of. He failed, as have all others who have tried the impossible. The curious contraption of a machine, with its many wheels and pulleys, was left behind when he moved.

A goodly number of German settlers came to this township in 1870-71. John Meyers was among this class. He located on section 18. He was overtaken by the grasshopper plague in 1873 and, being discouraged and tired of life, finally ended all by taking his own life. He stood before a mirror and, placing a revolver to his head, committed the fatal deed.

J. A. Brown was another pioneer here; he came in 1871, claiming the northeast quarter of section 8. Later he was the well-known landlord of the Sheldon House. He died in Sheldon, respected by all.

Others of about that date—all certainly early in the seventies—were A. Bloom, Seymour Shrylock (northwest quarter of section 8), Carey, William Lyle, Isaac Clements (southwest quarter of 6), James Glenn and others whose names appear of record in the land office, also L. Hackett and B. F.

Luce. Isaac Clements later on in years was county recorder four years and for many years since has been and now is a merchant in Primghar.

SHELDON.

Sheldon, the largest town in O'Brien county, had its commencement when the Milwaukee and Omaha lines, as now understood, reached the point where now stands the city, July 3, 1872, the surveyors having laid out the town the summer before. It was on this day that the construction train for the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha road reached Sheldon, soon passing on to the southwest towards its objective point, Sioux City. The town was really laid out by the land company of the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad Company, and was named from Israel Sheldon, one of the stockholders of the company, living in New York City. Soon after the first train car loads of lumber were hurried to the spot. A big Fourth of July celebration had been planned for weeks, and settlers from all over Sioux and O'Brien counties were present to greet the first of railroads in the county. The day was cold and disagreeable, and men had to wear heavy coats and some had on overcoats. Each brought well-filled baskets of "dinner" and tables were constructed from planks borrowed from the construction crews. It was a great lay-out and all seemed happy and had their best appetites with them! No "funny business" such as fire-crackers and fire-works was to be seen, but music swelled the breeze. An organ had been secured and this was placed under a cover made by poles and horse blankets. The Declaration of Independence was read by C. S. Stewart, and an oration delivered by ex-Governor Miller of Minnesota. Thomas Robinson also delivered a telling speech. This was certainly the first celebration of any kind held in Sheldon. In these days of more radical opinions concerning temperance, it may sound strange, "perfectly awful," to have it stated that the first building in the town was the saloon erected by Highly, of Storm Lake. It stood on the west side of block No. 8 and was burned in 1805. The second building was by H. C. Lane for a lumber office. His yard was opened about July 10, 1872. S. S. Bradley followed with a second yard in a few days. The third to handle lumber was James Wycoff. The general store of W. A. Fife was completed later in July. Getting plenty of lumber, it was necessary to have a hardware store and this was soon supplied by B. E. Bushnell. The next building was the law office of D. A. W. Perkins, soon followed by the warehouse of Benj. Jones (he was later for six years a member of the board of supervisors and is still residing in Sheldon, honored and respected by all within the county

for his many manly traits of character). His residence was soon erected. During the autumn of 1872 there were numerous buildings erected, including those built by the *Sheldon Mail* and H. C. Lane. George Colcord occupied the last named for his drug store; the same fall lawyer Perkins sold his building to A. J. Donavon, who started a shoe store and carried gentlemen's furnishings. He it was who advertised himself as a "Live Yankee from Boston." The first coal dealer was Benj. Jones. The first issue of the *Sheldon Mail* was pulled from the press January 1, 1873, and this paper has withstood the storms of the elements and political strife during all these forty years.

The first "Christmas tree" was planted Christmas eve, 1872, and it consisted of a four-inch-square pine stick with auger holes bored into its four sides, into which were inserted pins of wood and from these hung the various Christmas gifts, not costly, but showed the good will of Christmas-tide. The evening closed with a dance, the music of which was chiefly furnished by Linn Cook.

Of the churches and civic societies, other chapters will treat those in which the city of Sheldon is interested especially.

The first child born in Sheldon was Inez Wycoff, born July 11, 1873.

The first school teacher was Columbia Robinson.

The first sermon preached in the town was by Elder Brasheers, in August, 1872, in the depot.

The first postmaster was A. J. Brock, appointed in July, 1872, who resigned and was followed in January, 1873, by D. A. W. Perkins.

The first marriage in town was that of Tom De Long and Samantha Jones, the ceremonies being performed by H. C. Lane, and many an amusing incident took place at that pioneer wedding, mention of which may be made elsewhere in this volume. The date was January, 1873, in the first year's history of Sheldon.

SHELDON POSTOFFICE HISTORY.

Sheldon was provided with a postoffice in the summer of 1872, with A. J. Brock as its first postmaster. Since that date the following have served as postmasters: Andrew J. Brock, May 24, 1872; D. A. W. Perkins, January 9, 1873; D. R. Barnore, May 25, 1874; E. C. Brown, February 17, 1882; J. J. Hartenbower, May 27, 1885; R. E. Kearney, November 19, 1888; F. T. Piper, March 21, 1889; Robert E. Kearney, June 13, 1893; W. W. Reynolds, September 17, 1897; James C. Stewart, January 21, 1902; Joe Morton, Janu-

ary 30, 1906; A. W. Sleeper, December 14, 1908; Warren A. Edington, July 31, 1913.

The office is now a second class office, with four free delivery routes extending to the outlying country. The business of the Sheldon office, exclusive of money order business, for the year ending June 30, 1913, was twelve thousand dollars. The office became a free city delivery office in February, 1905. The present office force consists of the following persons: Postmaster, Warren A. Edington; clerks, C. V. Miller, John A. Dougherty, Frank A. Hura, Harry T. Barrett; sub-clerk, Clara Smith; city carriers, John Mondabaugh, Christian Smith; rural carriers, John J. Donohue, Alvin S. Ruby, Fred C. Bandler, F. R. Smead. The amount of deposit in the postal savings department in November, 1913, was one hundred and twenty-five dollars.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

In March, 1875, application was made for incorporating Sheldon. The commission appointed by the court was as follows: D. R. Barmore, A. W. Husted, J. C. Elliott, J. A. Brown and Benj. Jones. The election was held April 19, 1875, but the incorporation was defeated. In March, 1876, another move was made along the same lines, and other commissioners were duly appointed. The election was held March 25, 1876, and resulted in forty-nine votes being cast for incorporation and eleven against the measure. May 1, 1876, the first town officers were elected. It was a hotly contested election and much bitterness engendered. The two candidates for the office of mayor were H. B. Wyman and J. C. Elliott. Wyman received forty-six votes and this was a majority of seven over Elliott. L. F. Bennet was elected recorder over Husted; and the councilmen were J. M. Stevenson, J. Wycoff, Scott Harrington, George Bontelle and Charles Allen.

The subjoined gives a list of the regular mayors who have served Sheldon to the present date, 1913: 1876, H. B. Wyman; 1877, H. B. Wyman; 1878, H. B. Wyman; 1879, H. B. Wyman; 1880, J. J. Hartenbower; 1881, James Wycoff; 1882, H. B. Wyman; 1883, H. B. Wyman; 1884, J. J. Hartenbower; 1885, W. S. Lamb; 1886, L. S. Bassett; 1887, C. L. Gurney; 1888, Joseph Shinski; 1889, J. Shinski; 1890, John Bowley; 1891, John Bowley; 1892, John Bowley; 1893, C. Stinson.

In 1893 the town of Sheldon (incorporated) was changed to that of a city of the second class. The city was divided into three wards and the following were duly elected officers of the enlarged incorporation government:

Mayor, E. Y. Royce; treasurer, W. L. Ayers; solicitor, D. A. W. Perkins; assessor, W. E. Higley; councilmen—first ward, W. C. Kemper and L. J. Button; second ward, H. J. Cram and H. C. Lane; third ward, William Wing and A. E. Boyd; clerk, P. W. Hall; street commissioner, J. W. Hicks; marshal, George Hudson.

The following completes the list of Sheldon's mayors: 1895, E. Y. Royce; 1896, P. W. Hall; 1897, P. W. Hall; 1898, F. T. Piper; 1900, A. J. Cram; 1904, A. W. Sleeper; 1906, R. B. Piper; 1908, Henry Shipley; 1910, P. W. Hall, resigned and A. J. Schaap elected to fill vacancy; 1912, Fred Frisbee.

The present city officials are: Fred Frisbee, mayor; Scott Martin, clerk; F. E. Frisbee, treasurer; George Hudson, marshal; James B. Lindsay, attorney; W. E. Farnsworth, street commissioner; J. W. Rodgers, superintendent of water works; H. J. Brackney, health officer. The council is as follows: George Bloxham, George Holmes, Charles Peters, H. A. Strong, J. D. Wilson.

WATER WORKS, ETC.

No regular system of water works was installed in Sheldon until April 29, 1894, when the city was bonded for about eighteen thousand dollars and three excellent wells provided in the nearby creek bottoms, from which a splendid supply of water is obtained. It is pumped to the city, where there is a high water tank and tower, centrally located, which gives a pressure of fifty pounds per square inch. There are now fifty-five street hydrants or fire plugs, five miles of water mains and other improvements that go with a complete city water works system.

In 1913 there are four miles of sewer mains, the first of which was laid in 1905. The city now has ten blocks of paved streets, all laid in 1913. No northern Iowa city has a more beautiful park than Sheldon. It occupies four blocks, with play grounds attached, and is all finely improved, being covered with a fine growth of artificial trees, including fair-sized elms and soft maples, best adapted to this climate. Then there are cement walks, rustic seats, a number of picnic tables, flower beds artistically arranged, and the whole illuminated at night by electric lights. All in all, it is a reminder of the saying that "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

During the year 1913 the city of Sheldon expended \$33,455 for paving, \$5,185 for sewer extension and \$1,800 for its system of electroliters.

The city has during the present autumn—1913—provided its chief busi-



SHELDON'S BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY BUILDING

ness streets with more than thirty modern electroliers (electric street lights), each being a cluster of five lights, which add much to the utility and appearance of the business center of the enterprising town.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTING PLANT.

The electric light plant is a private concern owned by an old citizen, M. F. Logan. It is located at the Big Four flouring mill and affords ample light, heat and power for the present city's demands. The first electric light of Sheldon was put in in a small way by A. E. Knight. Later this was superseded by the plant owned and operated by the Diamond Light and Power Company, which virtually failed and was followed by the present system, which gives general satisfaction. This plant was at first run by O. E. Logan, who, in September, 1911, transferred it to the present owner.

The public school building at Sheldon consists of a handsome brick structure, erected in 1903, at a cost of sixty thousand dollars.

The population of Sheldon, according to the United States census reports in 1910, was two thousand nine hundred and forty-one, but is now somewhat more.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

As another index of the thrift and intelligence of the people of this city, may be cited the handsome, substantial library building erected in 1908-9, at a cost of ten thousand dollars, as the gift of Andrew Carnegie, through whose liberality there have been erected hundreds, if not thousands, of public libraries. The foundation for the present Sheldon library was away back in 1894, when the women took hold of the enterprise. It was the work and wisdom of the members of the Ladies Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (aided largely by the untiring zeal of Mrs. W. H. Sleeper) and composed of Madames C. Artman, J. D. Bunce, H. W. Conant, H. C. Hollenback, M. Long, J. W. Merrill, W. W. Reynolds, W. I. Simpson, William H. Sleeper, and Misses Edith N. Bowne and Mary S. Heath. Rooms were opened March 15, 1894, over Smith's hardware store and this was destroyed on March 17, 1894. The ladies held various public entertainments, and as a result had saved up fifty-six dollars and twenty cents, which was all lost in the fire, but was made good to them by the citizens of the place, who raised the amount by private subscription. There was soon formed a Public Library Association, with the following officers: Addie M. Sleeper, president; Mary

S. Heath, vice-president; Mrs. Florence S. Conant, treasurer, and Mrs. Lida Simpson, secretary. This was incorporated April 20, 1894, when the council of Sheldon appointed an advisory board of trustees. In the autumn of 1894 the library was placed in the Shipley & Company dry goods building and they then had two hundred books. A fee of fifty cents a year was charged for books taken from this circulating library. In 1895 this library was given to the city and trustees appointed. In the spring of 1897 a tax was voted to maintain the library and the books were moved to the Harris music store and Mrs. Mark Harris was appointed librarian. In October, 1902, the library was removed to the McColm shoe store building, with Mrs. McColm as librarian, who was followed by Mrs. B. F. McCormack. After Mr. Carnegie donated the ten thousand dollars for a library building to Sheldon in 1908, the library had really been in existence as a city library only four years. In the autumn of 1913 there were four thousand five hundred volumes on the shelves of this library. The library board consisted of S. S. Bailey, president; Mrs. W. L. Ayers, vice-president; W. H. Barragar, secretary; Dr. W. H. Myers, Henry Shipley, Superintendent Thomas, Mrs. John McCandless, Mrs. Fred E. Frisbee and Miss Nellie Jones. Since May, 1913, Miss Margaret McCandless has served as the efficient librarian. This institution is growing in strength and importance.

THE IOWA NATIONAL GUARD.

After the close of the Spanish-American War what was Company E of the Forty-sixth Iowa Regiment of Guards was mustered out and abandoned so far as its former home was concerned, for it had existed up to that time at the town of Hull, but was soon changed and mustered in at Sheldon, where more general interest was taken in military affairs. It was organized at Sheldon June 16, 1902, with J. B. Frisbee as its captain. He held the position for about four years, when W. H. Bailey was appointed and served till 1909, when he was appointed major of the regiment, and elected lieutenant-colonel in October, 1912, when Dr. H. J. Brackney became captain of the Sheldon company. After a year he was followed by C. C. McKellip. The present officers of the company are: Captain, H. G. Geiger; first lieutenant, Spencer M. Phelps; second lieutenant, Arthur Pierce. A stock company was formed in 1905 and a massive brick armory was provided for this military company. It is situated on Ninth street and is sixty by eighty-six feet, with a fine basement used for reading rooms, shower baths, lockers, storehouses, officers' rooms, boiler room and a shooting gallery. This hall cost twelve

thousand dollars and is always used for guard purposes when needed, but is also used for all special occasions, such as conventions, public gatherings, speeches, dances and lectures. At this date the number enrolled in this military company is fifty-eight, with three officers. The company is fully equipped and has its ten-day annual encampment and seven-days encampment for the officers' school of instruction.

THE SHELTON DISTRICT FAIR.

One of the progressive enterprises that has given Sheldon much popularity in years gone by, as well as at present, is its district fair, embracing originally several counties. This association was organized in 1880, as a fair association, and so continued until 1888, when it held its last fair under the original plan. Then, in 1900, the Sheldon District Fair was organized, with F. L. Wirick as its secretary. His successors have been James Mitchell, E. L. ("Steve") Richards, James Mitchell, J. L. McLaury, Jo Morton, Ed Williams, George Gardner. The officers of this organization are at present (1913): Fred J. Nelson, president; George Gardner, secretary; F. E. Frisbee, treasurer; directors, A. W. Sleeper, F. J. Nelson, C. E. Tangney, C. H. Runger, F. E. Frisbee, William Meiers, Chet Lynch, Charles Myers, Charles Peters.

In 1900 the society purchased twenty-seven acres of land near town, on the west, but just over in Sioux county, for which one hundred dollars per acre were paid. It would now easily sell at four hundred dollars per acre. It was bought of James Merrill. The price paid was thought to be high at the time. Six thousand dollars worth of improvements were put onto these grounds. These included the half-mile track, floral hall, cattle and horse sheds and barns suitable for training horses for racing, trotting and pacing. Here Jason Henry trains from twelve to fifteen fast horses continually. Among the speed records produced here may be recalled that of "Adrain R.," 2:07 $\frac{3}{4}$, owned by J. Muilenberg, of Orange City, Iowa; "Castlewood," 2:09 $\frac{1}{4}$, owned by C. H. Runger, of Sheldon; "The Pickett," with a mark of 2:13 $\frac{1}{4}$, owned by C. H. Runger, of Sheldon; "Miss Cuppy," with the mark of 2:17 $\frac{1}{4}$, as a pacer; "Montank," the pacer, with a mark of 2:13 $\frac{1}{4}$; and "Moretell," pacer, marked at 2:13 $\frac{1}{4}$.

These annual fairs and races bring people in from far and near and give the horsemen of the great Northwest a chance to speed their nimble-footed animals to the best advantage. Thousands attend annually.

WELL-KNOWN BREEDERS.

In this connection the prominent breeders should not be left out. In swine there is Peter Ellerbrook (estate), breeders of the large type of Poland China hogs; J. A. Benson is another breeder of note; in red hogs there is A. J. DeYoung and L. L. DeYoung; also Henry Brothers and C. H. Runger, breeders of fancy Poland China hogs.

THE MILLING INDUSTRY.

From the earliest date Sheldon has been famous for her large flouring mill plants, of which there are but few in Iowa doing a better or larger annual business in the production of first-class family flour. This industry started in the midst of the growing wheat fields of northwestern Iowa in the seventies, when the first mill was built by the Iselin brothers, John and Harry. These men came to this town with considerable money and were enterprising and free-hearted. They built the original "Prairie Queen" flouring mills and also several residences on the south side of the tracks. They came in a time that did not prove a financial success to them. John died in the nineties and Harry was at last accounts living in New York, from which place they had come. The mill above referred to passed into the hands of others and met with reverses until finally it was purchased by its present owner, Scott Logan, who came to O'Brien county in 1880 from New Jersey and settled on a farm in Floyd township. For a time he operated a wind grist mill. He grazed cattle for four years on the open free prairie lands, after which settlers came in too numerous and this was abandoned. In 1882, through lack of good management, the Iselin brothers failed and the property was bought in by the Sleepers, who, with W. B. Bowne, operated the mills a few years, lost money, and in 1885 they sold to G. Y. Bonus, now of the great Leeds (Sioux City) milling plant, who converted the mill into a roller process. In 1886 he sold one-half interest to Scott Logan, and about five years later Mr. Logan bought out Bonus. Since 1890 Mr. Logan has been sole owner and proprietor, and he has practically rebuilt the mill twice, adding improved machinery each time. The last improvements were put in about 1907, and the capacity is four hundred barrels a day in the "Prairie Queen" mill and his other mill, the "Big Four," has a capacity of three hundred barrels daily. The last named was built in 1890 and operated two years and its builders failed, and it was taken over by the New York stockholders, who operated it four years, when, being involved, it was turned over to the Sheldon Bank.

This concern failed in 1904, when its holdings went under the hammer and Scott Logan bought it at receiver's sale and remodeled it in 1905, at an expense of thirty thousand dollars, making its capacity three hundred instead of one hundred barrels daily. These mills have been operated by the Scott Logan Milling Company since 1907, with a capital of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and has now a total daily output of seven hundred barrels of flour, and a wheat storage capacity of one hundred thousand bushels. Agencies are kept for the sale of this flour at Dubuque and Springfield. Hence it will be observed that the beginning of the Sheldon milling industry was when the Iselin brothers, in 1874, built their little buhr stone mill six miles to the north of Sheldon. In 1879-80 they projected the Sheldon mills which have come down to Mr. Logan, the present owner.

These mills have come to be the largest in this section of country and they are well and favorably known for their product, which has sale in many quarters of the country. Here hundreds of thousands of bushels of wheat have been converted into family flour with the coming and going of the years. The three great northwest Iowa mills are the Sheldon, LeMars and Leeds.

BUSINESS INTERESTS IN 1913.

In the autumn of 1913 the various enterprises and business factors in Sheldon were carried on as follows:

Attorneys—I. N. McIntire, George Wellman, Phelps & Lindsay, George Gibson, Charles Babcock, T. Diamond.

Auto garages—Frank & Griffin, Sheldon Auto Garage, the E. Tripp garage.

Banks—First National, Sheldon National, Sheldon Savings Bank, Union (private institution).

Bakeries—"The City," by D. J. Haagsman, Hunt's Bakery.

Bottling works—The Sheldon.

Barber shops—R. P. Scott, James Kestner, M. Lewis.

Contractors—Jack Wilson, L. N. Wilsey, H. M. Bosna and Geiger.

Cigar store—Charles Woodruff.

Clothing—Hospers & Schaap, William Flindt & Company.

Cement workers—Runger & Wilson, Archie Hint.

Creamery—"The Sheldon," by D. A. Miller.

Confectionery—Henry Hosper, Swortorh Brothers, E. C. Van Epps.

Dye works—The Swanson works.

Drugs—Ayers Brothers, W. C. Iverson, W. J. Hollander.

Dray lines—Myers, Bean & Company, John Rider, George Hill, Frank Elias, C. E. Brown.

Dentists—Drs. A. W. Beach, Brown & McKay.

Department stores—Starrett Brothers, William Myers & Company, Sheldon Mercantile Company, Ellenbroek Brothers.

Elevators (grain)—Farmers' Co-operative Company, J. Button & Company, Sheldon Trade Company, Logan Milling Company, F. M. Slagel & Company.

Furniture—S. O. Beanblossom, Nash & Wood.

Feed barn and sheds—John Montgomery.

Grocers—Sheldon Grocery Company.

Hardware—E. P. Messer & Son, Daniel O'Kane and Mr. Lubbers.

Harness stores—E. L. Richards, W. H. Beacom.

Hotels—The Arlington, the Howard, the Royce, the Sheldon.

Hospitals—The Dr. Cram Hospital.

Implements—George A. Miller, W. H. Beacom, Dermott & Duisterman.

Jewelers—E. A. James, Hal Nervobig.

Lumber—Sheldon Trade Company, H. A. Strong, Pyncheon & Ling, Slagel Lumber Company.

Livery—Myers, Bean Company.

Laundries—C. E. Miller and a Chinese laundry.

Meat markets—Runger and Wilson markets.

Music house—Wilsey & Son.

Millinery—Starrett Brothers, Sheldon Mercantile Company, Miss Kate Donovan, Mrs. A. Smith.

Mills (flouring)—"Prairie Queen" and the "Big Four."

Mills (wood-working)—The Sheldon Fixture Company.

Marble works—Elliott & Hagy.

Moving pictures—D. H. Harvey and Fred Brenneman.

Newspapers—The *Sun* and the *Mail*.

Opera house—W. H. Sleeper.

Photographs—Pratt & Son, Mrs. L. Fredericks.

Physicians—Drs. F. W. Cram, W. R. Brock, W. H. Myers, F. L. Myers, H. G. Brackney, C. V. Page, Roy Moresshell, Miss Deneen.

Plumbers (aside from hardwares)—James Leveret and Charles Prentice.

Produce houses—Swift & Company, Clarence McKillep.

Restaurants—Charles Myers, Gleason & Wood, Will Fritts, Oliver Pierce.

Stock buyers—Ringer & Wilson.

Second-hand stores—Holly Vanderbeck.

Shoe stores—Kleins and Harley A. Cobb

Tailors—John Klasbeck, J. A. Larson.

Veterinary surgeons—L. U. Shipley, Dr. Ridell, T. E. Andrews.

Sheldon is on the great "North Iowa Pike," the automobile route from Sioux Falls, North Dakota, to McGregor, Iowa. This was laid out in 1911, and when thoroughly improved will be one of the greatest thoroughfares for northern tourists in all this country. Sheldon is the hub from which routes of this highway branch off to LeMars, Cherokee, Mankato, Sioux Falls and Mitchell; also to Mason City on the east.

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP AND SANBORN.

On January 8, 1878, on petition of J. H. Wolf and nine others, what is now Franklin township was detached from Floyd and called Franklin, and the first election held at the house of William Gavin. This township was named for Benjamin Franklin.

No better introduction to this chapter can be had than to quote the words of pioneer J. H. Wolf, of the *Pringhar Bell*, who wrote of this township several years ago as follows:

"Franklin township, now one of the most prosperous and populous, second to Floyd only, in fact, was one of the last to be organized as a separate township, being attached to Floyd.

"William H. Dummit, of section 8, with his family, being the first residents, locating as a homesteader on the northwest of section 8, in either 1871 or 1872. The family had some sad experiences, like most other frontier people. During the blizzard of January, 1873, a child died and was three days in the house after death, the storm being too bad to venture out to inform the neighbors. Mr. Dummit, by strict attention to business, industry and economy, has raised his family well, and now (1897) owns three hundred and twenty acres, paid for, and all well improved and well stocked. Such men always make farming pay.

"J. H. Wolf and family were the second to locate in the township, settling on section 14, in April, 1873. Their nearest neighbors were more than four miles away. The first winter they lived on the farm they were snowed in for eleven weeks, from January 8th to March 28th, not seeing anyone, the snow being too deep to travel. Mr. Wolf threshed their first crop, several hundred bushels, with the flail, his wife turning the fanning mill to clean it up.

"Rev. Ira Brashears, the same spring, that of 1873, had some breaking done, built a shanty, and lived a short time on the land now occupied by E. T. Parker, adjoining Sanborn. Afterward several hundred acres were broken up, or for, a man named Buck, on section 31. About the same time some land was being broken up on section 12, but not farmed, the land being broken up on the wrong section. B. F. McCormack can tell the particulars.

"Isaac Daniels broke land on section 14 in 1874, and built a house and moved his family thereto soon after.

"Thomas Burns and family located on section 31, we think in 1874 or 1875, and John Neese and Charles Sechman located on sections 28 and 29 in 1876. In 1878 there were voters enough, ten, to organize the township, which was done. J. H. Wolf and Isaac Daniels were appointed to locate the roads. The first election was held in the fall of 1878, at the house on section 30 then occupied by Mr. Gavin, twenty-one votes being cast, six or eight of them by men working on the railroad, legal voters."

From that day on settlement was made more rapidly and hence cannot here be traced in detail. The present population is about five hundred.

SANBORN.

The only town in Franklin township is Sanborn, started in 1878 and early in 1879. It made a rapid growth for twenty years and more. It was platted January 8, 1879, on the west half of the northeast quarter and the east half of the northwest quarter of section 35, township 97, range 40, by J. A. Stocum and wife. This city is six years younger than Sheldon and five years younger than Primghar was when it became the county seat. Sanborn was another child of the railroad system now styled the "Milwaukee." Its predecessor, the McGregor & Missouri Railway Company, had undertaken to build across the state from McGregor to intersect with the Sioux City & St. Paul road in the vicinity of Sheldon. After reaching Algona, seventy-five miles east of Sanborn, either from lack of good management or money, they stopped, unable to go further, until 1877, when the road passed into the hands of the Milwaukee Company, which at once started up its rapid building and further western extension. The first construction train reached Sanborn November 1, 1878. The site was owned by Messrs. Lawler and Stocum, who laid out the town. They platted into town lots about sixty acres. It was first designed to name the new town Edenville, but better judgment prevailed (possibly) and the town was named, not after the Garden of Eden,



High School.

Methodist Episcopal Church.

VIEWS IN SANBORN.

Carnegie Library.

Presbyterian Church.

but after the then superintendent of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, George W. Sanborn.

Building number one here was hauled from Primghar by L. C. Green, its owner, and used as a dwelling house, although about the same date E. R. Wood, for Teabout & Valleau, had a building there. Primghar saw the building of a new rival town only seven miles to the north, and became alarmed at the scenes there being enacted. It was a railroad town—Primghar was yet without one. Mr. Green was the first to become alarmed and really enthused over the business prospects at Sanborn, and was the first to remove hither. He landed with his building December 12, 1878. He and L. C. Green were the first to occupy any building in the town of Sanborn. The next to move to Sanborn was that enterprising carpenter and builder, Hiram Algyer, who well understood that Sanborn would be a first-class place in which to ply his trade. His dwelling was the third building in the place. By a terrible railroad accident while as a carpenter remodeling a car he had both lower limbs severed, losing his life. L. D. Thomas moved a building to the town site and used it as a carpenter shop. When Miss Cora Thomas married Mr. Willits, they settled down to housekeeping in this same building. This was in January, 1878, during which month there were several other buildings built or removed to Sanborn. Mr. Barns, who had kept a hotel at Primghar, moved his building over to Sanborn, where he continued in the hotel business.

The first store was opened by S. W. Clark, whose stock, for a time, was kept at the depot, until his building could be removed from Primghar and made ready for his stock of merchandise.

It was in November, 1878, that a freight box-car was set out at Sanborn siding to be used as a depot until a better one could be provided. The first agent in charge was L. E. Whitman. W. Dunbar and he both resided in the depot together, for a time. Dunbar was the road master for this division of the Milwaukee road.

It was indeed a novel sight to behold one town, and the county seat at that, being transported to the site of another seven miles distant. The prairie was literally dotted with buildings going from Primghar to Sanborn, the new and rival town of Primghar. But, be it said, all this fuss was useless, for as the years have rolled by it is seen that both places have a useful field and there is plenty of room for both towns, even if Sanborn did not get the county seat.

E. M. Brady, one of the early settlers, established himself in the hard-

ware business at Sanborn before others had pre-empted the field. He served as a worthy member of the county board of supervisors for a number of years; was also a member of the Iowa Legislature from this district.

The first banking institution in Sanborn was started in January, 1879, by I. W. Daggett, who had for a time operated at Primghar. The first mail service between the two rival towns was established in February, 1879. L. C. Green having been appointed mail carrier, the mail was always on time, rain or shine, sleet or snow. Samuel Hibbs opened the first meat shop in Sanborn. He also moved his building from Primghar. The depot was used for a meeting house by those inclined toward religion and the better things of life.

The first warehouse in Sanborn was that of Teabout & Valleau, in February, 1879. Between Clark's store and the depot, a telephone (not electric but vibratory) was placed in operation, the first in this county. Now there are hundreds of miles of modern improved telephones, and everyone can whisper their thoughts around the county at will!

The first celebration of Fourth of July at Sanborn occurred in 1879, when the procession marched to an improvised bowery. Allen Crossan read the Declaration of Independence and J. L. E. Peck, of Primghar, delivered the oration.

The first child born in Sanborn was in August, 1879, when a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Hazeldine. The family soon removed from the town. The year 1879 was truly a busy one in the new town, the hotels and all stopping places being full and running over. The first issue of the *Sanborn Pioneer* was run off November 7, 1879. The earliest drug store was that opened by Dr. Charles Smith. David Alger taught the first school in the place in the winter of 1879-80; he also taught music with much success.

The town of Sanborn was fortunate in being the end of a division on the great Milwaukee system of railroads. These divisions are about one hundred miles apart. It follows, therefore, that only one town in twenty or more in the state can be so selected. In result Sanborn has become the home and residence center of a large number of expert railroad men and their families, engineers, conductors, train dispatchers, railway mail agents and their scores of railroad assistants.

It was in 1879 that Sanborn and Sheldon were both pulling hard for the county seat. In six months the town doubled its population. The Methodist church was built and the round-house of the railroad was opened for work. The first death chronicled in the young place was the youngest child of W.

W. Barnes, named Minnie. In 1880 the "House of Lords," a saloon, was opened by Harry Sherman; 1880 saw a population of five hundred souls and business went forward at a rapid rate. In September, 1886, J. L. Green and William Harker opened a banking house. Mr. Harker died in 1895 and his widow still continued to conduct the bank and was its president, the only lady who held such position within the borders of the county.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

In 1880 Sanborn saw the necessity of becoming an incorporated town. Upon a petition presented to the district court. Mart Shea, L. C. Green, S. W. Clark, A. G. Willits and Cal Broadstreet were appointed commissioners to call an election for voting upon the matter of incorporation, for and against the proposition. That election was held March 13, 1880, resulting in forty votes for and twenty-four against. The first town officers were elected April 3, the same year, and were as follows: Mayor, E. M. Brady; recorder, Charles H. Perry; councilmen, Mart Shea, S. W. Clark, L. C. Green, H. Alger, W. F. Jones, Cal Broadstreet; marshal and street commissioner, T. D. White; treasurer, Frank Patch.

The mayors have been in the order here named: 1880, E. M. Brady; 1881, A. J. Devine; 1882, Harley Day; 1883, F. Teabout; 1884, D. R. Phelps; 1885, A. McNaughton; 1886, W. D. Boies; 1887, W. H. Noyes; 1888, N. L. F. Peck; 1889, J. E. Drake; 1890, J. E. Drake; 1891, D. R. Phelps; 1892, W. C. Green; 1893, W. J. Francis; 1894, W. J. Francis; 1895, W. J. Francis; 1896, G. O. Wheeler; 1897, W. J. Francis; J. A. Wilcox, 1900-04; B. M. Flint, 1904-10; J. H. Cannon, 1910-12; J. B. Stamp, 1912, resigned to become county auditor; J. H. McNeill, 1912-14.

The 1913 town officers are: J. H. McNeill, mayor; Will A. Solon, clerk; J. A. Johnson, treasurer; Fred Benham, marshal; J. H. Daley, E. A. Main, B. M. Flint, W. B. Cantrall, Samuel Omer, councilmen.

Sanborn has a good town hall and a public park covering a block and a half, planted out in 1890 to trees that now make a beautiful shade and wind break. Within this park stands the high water tower, which may be seen for a dozen or more miles around the town. Walks and rustic seats adorn and make useful this park, all of which bespeaks the intelligence and refinement of the place. The G. R. Healey private electric light plant affords the town ample illumination. This was installed in the nineties under a new franchise, the old company having gone out of business at that date.

The town of Sanborn has ample water supply through its modern water work system, secured in 1896-97, by bonding for six thousand dollars. A deep well of large size was put down in Highland Park addition in 1912, when the old well had become inefficient for the demand. The old works were situated in Greene's addition. The present system affords fine water in abundance. There are about thirty-five fire plugs. A volunteer fire company looks well to the matter of providing safety to the town. Sanborn has a school house of eight main rooms and three class rooms, costing sixteen thousand dollars.

The Sanborn postoffice is of the third class; has three rural free deliveries and one star route extending out to outlying districts. During the administration of Postmaster Boyd the safe was twice blown up by men, who were never captured. The loss was light and fell on the postmaster. The postmasters here have been: Ira Brashears, to 1884; D. R. Phelps, 1884 to 1888; Chauncey Owens, 1888-92; J. F. Kerburg, 1892-96; R. M. Boyd, 1896 to August 15, 1913 (seventeen years); E. L. Helmer, from August 15, 1913, to present date.

Churches, lodges, schools, etc., are mentioned under separate chapters.

1913 BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

In years to come the following will be read with no little interest:

Auto garages—Alexander Amelung, M. W. Cuppet, C. Hoffa.

Attorney—T. Fillenwarth.

Banks (state and savings)—See Banking chapter.

Barber shops—J. J. Lowrey, G. S. Travaille, George Casely.

Bakery—J. E. Wilson.

Blacksmith, shop—George Smith.

Clothing, exclusive—Kelley & Donohue.

Cement block works—Anderson Lumber Company.

Cream station—Hanford's Produce Company and another corporation.

Drugs—J. W. McKinley, E. C. Sprague & Company.

Dray lines—Heman Gibbs, L. E. Foote, David Pippenger, D. Bernier, Thomas Farnsworth.

Dentist—F. W. Farnsworth.

Elevator (grain)—The "Hunting" and "Western," Farmers' Co-operative.

Furniture—H. J. Hennebach.

- General merchandise—E. A. Mayne, Ellenbrock & Bomgaar, Otto Kas.
 Groceries (exclusive)—Henry Addy, B. F. Pitts, Quillash Brothers.
 Hotels—"The Phoenix," the old Clark House; also the Omer House.
 Harness shop—J. W. Hill, E. A. Crandall.
 Hardware—A. Hoeven, Haber & Wright, E. A. Crandall.
 Implements—B. F. Flint, Dick DeGraff.
 Jewelers—F. D. Gibbs.
 Lumber dealers—Anderson Company, Farmers' Co-operative Company
 and Consumers' Independent Lumber Company.
 Laundry—A Chinaman.
 Meat market—B. W. Cantrall.
 Millinery—Rose Steuch, D. Tennesen.
 Newspapers—The *Sanborn Pioneer*.
 Opera house—A company of citizens.
 Photographs—J. D. Long.
 Panitorium—James Clark.
 Pool halls—Garrett Jepma, Thomas Maroney.
 Physicians—Drs. F. M. Horton, Ed. Rutterer, W. M. Kuyper.
 Restaurants—Omer Hotel luncheon.
 Stock dealers—F. L. Inman, O. D. Eaton.
 Telephone—W. H. Barker system.
 Tailors—Pirie & Anderson.
 Veterinary surgeon—J. F. Wall.
 Wagon repair shop—L. Leaver.

In 1884 Sanborn made improvements footing to the amount of twenty-five thousand five hundred dollars. Perhaps the best interest at Sanborn is the railroad division. Here in Sanborn the freight and passenger trains are made up; here the crews exchange places, one going out and the other coming in for a lay over. Here the round house and repair shops have always been located, and by reason of this much money has been annually paid out by the company. As a general rule railroad men are lavish and liberal in what they spend. Tens of thousands of passengers have stopped in transit at Sanborn and taken one or more meals. Here they have spent other money. Some of these have been induced to locate in the place and become citizens and good business men. There have been numerous passenger conductors who have made this their home for a period of more than a quarter of a century. Their runs have been made to the east and to the west. Among such capable men may be recalled E. Hoxsie, M. M. Burns and Charles E.

Foote. The faces of these popular conductors have been seen by an almost countless number of persons, during their many years' run over the Milwaukee system running in and out of Sanborn.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

This library was organized in April, 1901, by the Twentieth Century Clubs of Sanborn. The ladies of this club secured donations of books and services as librarians. The first regular librarian elected was Miss Mayme Johnson. The building, most of the money of which was donated by Andrew Carnegie, was erected at a cost of four thousand eight hundred dollars, and it was dedicated May 22, 1912. It is located on Main street. The present number of volumes is about two thousand five hundred. The trustees are at present: Mrs. M. M. Burns, president; Miss Zaidee McCulloch, vice-president; Mrs. J. A. Johnson, secretary; J. H. Daly, treasurer; Henry Kissler, Dr. F. W. Horton, Mrs. E. C. Sprague, Mrs. Earl Mayne. The various librarians have been Miss Z. McCulloch, Miss Hannah Johnson, Miss Helen Foote, Miss Marguerite Kings, Miss Irene McNeill.

LINCOLN TOWNSHIP.

This township was formerly included in old Waterman township, but as the county grew in population it was necessary to sub-divide and hence we have what is now Lincoln township.

This township is situated in the north part of the county, between Hartley and Franklin townships. The old Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern railway (now the Rock Island route) runs diagonally through its northeastern portion, with a small hamlet for a station point, located on section 10, called Plessis, which is the only trading point in the township. The land here is not unlike the majority of that in northern O'Brien county, well adapted to general farming purposes; is rich and increasing in value annually. Plenty of farms would sell today for one hundred and eighty-five dollars per acre, but few are to be had for sale. The owners do not conceive of a place where, if they continue in agricultural pursuits, they could duplicate the values, hence refuse to sell in most cases. The contrast with those early years, when homesteaders were discouraged and would have sold at a mere trifle, is indeed great. The main line of the great Milwaukee railroad system runs through the entire lower tier of sections, with the towns of Sanborn

and Hartley on either side of the township a few miles, thus giving good markets.

The earliest settlers in Lincoln township were L. M. Silverthorn and family, who came in from Hardin county, Iowa, in 1870, locating on section 30. This family came two years before any other family appeared on the green glad solitude of the prairie township. They went through the grasshopper period and one season Mr. Silverthorn had one hundred acres of land in wheat and harvested not a single bushel—the little winged pests had destroyed his entire crop, not even leaving him enough for his seed and bread. Subsequently he became a citizen of Hartley.

In 1881 this township had a population of twenty-three souls; in 1885 its population had increased to fifty-three, and its present population is about four hundred and eighty-five.

On section 36, in this township, Frank Teabout, as early as 1874, conducted a large ranch. In fact, it was his headquarters, from which he managed several large farms or ranches. Mr. Teabout was a brainy man and a practical business man and farmer, and a man of pronounced personality and a self-made man. He passed through the whole grasshopper scourge of 1874-79 in these large farming operations, and even with these setbacks made money and accumulated more land and became worth one hundred and fifty thousand dollars or thereabouts. He being thus forehanded even among impoverished conditions, enabled him to overcome that which blasted the hopes of many of the old homesteaders.

It was in this township where Major Chester W. Inman, once county treasurer, was killed in an altercation over a boundary line. It was over his death that the one and only murder trial ever in the county was had resulting in conviction.

FIDDLE STRING TOWNSHIP.

As stated elsewhere, it was a point jealously guarded and contended for in those early politics and before the board of supervisors, that each old homestead township, like Carroll, should have an unsettled, or, as they were then called, a deeded township, like Lincoln, which it could hold and levy taxes for school and road purposes, and then expend it all in the old township. Thus Hartley claimed Omega, Highland claimed Dale, and Floyd claimed Franklin. Now thus far they were contiguous territory in each case. Poor Carroll township stood out alone. It could not attach either Summit or Baker, because those townships considered themselves of enough importance

to resent being owned by anybody, having enough settlers to preserve their own identity. But Lincoln had no settlers. Carroll could look across the prairie space of six miles and covet the uninhabited Lincoln, but how could she become contiguous? How could she leap across that six mile chasm? This scheme was evolved. The board of supervisors was induced to set off a row of forties like a fiddle string on the north side and clear across Summit, and then it called the whole thing Fiddle String and all Carroll, and Carroll township collected taxes for many years from the whole. The early settlers of Lincoln began to arrive and soon resented the idea of being called "one end of a fiddle string," and organized as Lincoln at the first opportunity, by snapping this fiddle string and telling Summit and Carroll to play their own tunes. This farce was much of a joke, even at the time, but it served a political reality, and in fact met the legal requirements of a township.

HARTLEY TOWNSHIP.

On October 14, 1878, a petition was filed to set off what is now Hartley township from Center. It was rejected at that session, but on June 2, 1879, it was again brought up and successfully set off and named Hartley, and the first election held at the house of J. M. Silverthorn.

TOWN OF HARTLEY.

The town of Hartley had its beginning with the coming of the Milwaukee railroad in 1878, and was named after one of the surveyors and engineers who had participated for the road in its building. The first platted part of the town was made by W. A. Mickey, the father-in-law of Jacob H. Wolf, of the *Bell*, in the platting of Mickey's addition on August 8, 1879. It was one case where the addition was platted prior to the main town. Indeed, it is part of the main portion of the town today. In fact, buildings were started before the plattings of record. The census of 1910 gives the population of Hartley at one thousand one hundred and six.

The town was not incorporated until about ten years later. On April 2, 1888, James S. Webster, still a resident and prominent business man of the town, headed a petition with forty others directed to the district court, asking that all of section 32 in Hartley township be incorporated. On May 23, 1888, in a regular proceeding in open court before Hon. Scott M. Ladd, presiding judge, a hearing was had, and thereupon the court appointed James S. Webster, William S. Fuller, S. H. McMaster, E. B. Messer and R. G. Allen

as the five court commissioners under the law to call an election to vote on the proposition whether it should be incorporated or not. This election was held July 2, 1888, three of the commissioners acting as judges of the election. There were eighty-seven votes cast, and the vote stood seventy-nine for incorporation and eight against. At the first election for officers the following corps of officials were elected:

Mayor, E. B. Messer; recorder, W. H. Eaton; councilmen, Samuel Smith, L. C. Green, I. N. Drake, S. H. McMasters, L. Mosher and W. J. Lorshbough; marshal, J. M. Herron; treasurer, W. S. Fuller.

The town of Hartley has enjoyed and still enjoys an extent of trading territory not held by any other town in the county. The next east and west railroad to the north is very close to twenty miles away. The towns of Ochevedan, Harris, Lake Park, Spirit Lake and Milford, the next nearest towns to the north and northeast, range from eighteen to thirty miles away. This has given Hartley an exceptionally large trading chance, and its business men have followed up this opportunity.

The mere statement of the fact that Hartley has three banks, with a savings bank as part of one of those institutions, and the only town outside of Sheldon having more than two banks and more than one railroad, simply evidences the result of this large trade territory.

Hartley is one among those towns whose business district is compact, its banks, stores, depots, elevators, lumber and other yards, hotels, etc., being all located on adjoining blocks.

Hartley, like other towns, in its school history has passed through first the primitive period, finally arriving at the up-to-date period in the highest sense. The very first school in the town was not held in a school building, but in the upper story of Finster & Fuller's store building, and was taught by O. M. Shonkwiler, who later on became a hustler in many lines, including actual farming on a large scale, and as a public man in various ways, including membership on the board of supervisors.

Hartley, however, was among the very early towns in the county to have a modern brick, up-to-date school structure. One unique feature of the Hartley school building is the fact that it has in the third story a magnificent auditorium, which is used by its citizens, not only in public school functions, but for general public audiences. Like all towns, it got along first with its one-story frame school building, then later with its two-story building, which in its time was built on large proportions and which later became frame residences near town.

Hartley, like all the prairie towns, started under primitive conditions and then grew. For instance, in 1878, when the railroad was built, in the hustle to get things moving the road first used a box car as a depot, presided over by George Titus as the first railroad magnate or depot agent. Finster & Fuller, composed of those old settlers, J. S. Finster and William S. Fuller, ran the first store. Soon there after Pumphrey & Chrysler, made up of John R. Pumphrey and J. G. Chrysler, among the first merchants in Primghar, started the second store for Hartley. N. Plawson followed with a grocery and saloon, and Frank Matott and W. J. Guenther a saloon and billiard hall.

J. K. P. McAndrew opened up and was landlord of the first hotel, known as the Commercial House. It might be appropriate here to say that Mr. McAndrew was the godfather and responsible for the city of Max, just west of Hartley, where for years he ran an elevator. It was McAndrews, or Macks or Max. Later on Mr. McAndrew was for some years an efficient member of the board of supervisors. Indeed the town of Hartley and vicinity has furnished to the county sundry of its officials: O. M. Shonkwiler, John Sanders, H. J. Merry and now Peter Swenson, on the board of supervisors, John T. Conn, county attorney and county auditor, John W. Walters, clerk of the courts, and ex-Sheriff George Coleman, now a resident and telephone manager.

One odd incident occurred in the very first years, when the town was small and pioneers were few, bringing together both the preacher and saloon on an occasion which was neither a raid nor a camp meeting. In those earliest times the preacher did not always fare sumptuously, and was not always inquired about. He was needy and appealed to a farmer. At Frank Matott's saloon the question arose and a good sized fund was raised and provided for, with Frank as treasurer of this aid society, under which management the preacher was provided with forty-five dollars per month.

Williams Brothers, of Primghar, built one of the early brick store buildings of size and conducted a store for some time. David Gano combined a meat market and hardware store. H. J. Guenther shipped in a stock of boots and shoes all the way from New York and Milo Silverthorn started a livery, so the first people of the town could go either afoot or on horseback.

One of its quite early public buildings was its very ample hotel of southern seashore appearance and comfort, with its unusually large porches on two full sides. Indeed, this hotel was built in such large proportions that it has well served as the permanent, up-to-date hotel of the city and well known as the Park Hotel.

It was a passing joke at the time in Hartley's first barber shop that its customers shaved themselves in turn. However, Claud Charles soon relieved this situation by installing a common bench for a barber's chair, which Claud straddled, with the victim lying on his back, as he proceeded with the surgical operation, with his outfit consisting of a cake of Russian soap, a razor and the leg of a boot for a strap and hone.

Brick buildings followed these early conditions, as we now witness on its streets. On sundry improvements and situations see the chapters on Banks and Banking, the Press and the Churches and other incidental items mentioned in various parts of this history.

The township of Hartley was wholly what was known as a deeded township, with not a homestead claim in it. Its settlement was sparse and scarcely started until 1879 and 1880. It had no pioneers in the sense of the homesteaders in other townships. O. M. Shonkwiler was one of its very early real farmers residing on the land itself. Among other of the very early ones in the township were Frank Patch, E. T. Broders, I. N. Drake, C. H. Colby, Henry Krebs, Mary E. Colby, George W. Walter, Peter Swenson, C. B. Olhausen, Paul Kahler, J. C. Mansmith, George W. Schee, Stephen R. Harris, J. D. Edmundson, William Steinbeck, I. M. Silverthorn, A. H. Bierkamp and others, who either resided on or owned or opened up the early farm lands.

Its present (1913) officials are: Mayor, George Coleman; clerk, H. T. Broders; treasurer, Freeman Patch; assessor, George Rector; councilmen, Ed. Burns, T. H. Burns, O. E. Horst, Julius Eichner and Earl Miller.

Since writing the above, this March, 1914, a new city administration was selected: E. G. Burns, mayor, and W. A. Simms, William Lenke, Peter Nelson, E. Krutzfeldt and H. J. Grotewohl, councilmen.

WATER WORKS.

Hartley established a system of water works in 1895 at a cost of five thousand five hundred dollars. It obtains its water supply from a large well two hundred feet deep, the water being first pumped to a tower tank one hundred and twenty-five feet in height. Like most other towns, Hartley has had some trying experiences, in her case with quicksand. In 1914 the town put down a second well. Its pumps are operated by an electric motor.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The fire department is made up of a volunteer company and has done efficient work in several fires. It is provided with chemical engine, hooks and ladders, hose and other equipments.

ELECTRIC LIGHT PLANT.

Hartley is specially proud of its excellent and up-to-date lighting system. This system was installed in 1908 and the first lights turned on February 10, 1909, all at a total cost of thirty-five thousand dollars. The meter system is in use here. The machinery producing the electric current consists of a one-hundred-and-ten-volt direct-current dynamo, one eighty-horse-power gas producing engine and one "50-60" Alamo oil producing engine, one thirty and one fifty kilowatt generator, with a one hundred and thirty-two cell storage battery. The streets are brightly illuminated, and the whole system is a success.

POSTOFFICE HISTORY.

The following is a list of the postmasters of Hartley: O. M. Shonkwiler, 1878; J. S. Finster, 1879-85; R. A. Woodward, 1885-88; Frank Potts, 1888-90; Leonard Miller, 1890-93; S. A. Smith, 1893-98; J. E. Wheelock, 1898-14.

The board of education of the independent district of Hartley is as follows: J. E. Wheelock, president; L. Cody, J. S. Messer, J. C. Joslin and William Lemke; clerk, G. E. Knack; treasurer, W. J. Davis.

THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT.

The great pride, not only of O'Brien county, but of Hartley especially, is in its soldiers' monument, erected by Mr. and Mrs. George W. Schee in 1891. It was unveiled June 4, 1891, in dedication-day exercises, and an extended program and reunion and memorial eulogized by Judge William Hutchinson, Doctor Hutchins and Thomas F. Ward, then an attorney of Pringhar. It was truly made a county-wide occasion. For instance, Capt. Charles F. Albright led two hundred citizens from Pringhar in a body. Like-sized companies came in procession from many townships and families came from every direction. The Milwaukee train alone brought five hundred from



G.A.R. Monument.
Hartley Iowa.

A BEAUTIFUL MEMORIAL TO THE HONORED DEAD

Sheldon and Sanborn. A fine military band from Hull led the processions. Old soldiers, Sons of Veterans, and Women's Relief Corps, with banners, badges and flags, called forth both enthusiasm and patriotism. The monument itself, during the program, was surrounded by old soldiers, with guards pacing to and fro, guarding the emblems and symbols of the army and navy.

Each procession and train was met by committees and bands and escorted to the place assigned. The monument is white bronze, standing twenty-eight feet above ground in height. The figure or statue of a full-sized soldier, six feet four inches, stands at the top. Its weight, exclusive of foundation, is three thousand pounds, and cost two thousand six hundred dollars. It is seventy feet around the base, which required four car loads of stone, lime and cement to built it. The monument is ornamented on the several sides with medallions as follows: Bust of Grant, Lincoln and Logan. The names of all the members of the Hartley Grand Army of the Republic Post, giving the names of companies and regiments, are beautifully inscribed. Also the words "Presented to G. A. R. Post and Town of Hartley by Mr. and Mrs. George W. Schee," are inscribed. During the program, in addition to speeches named, Commander James S. Webster delivered the Proclamation of Peace as an impressive part of the services. The Sheldon Male Quartette rendered vocal music. Altogether it was one of the great occasions in O'Brien county.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

The following is a complete roster of the business interests of the town :
Attorney—John T. Conn.

Agricultural Implements—Burns Brothers, E. B. Messer & Son.

Auto Garages—Messer & Johnson, Palmquist Auto Company.

Banks—Hartley State Bank, First National Bank, Farmers Savings Bank and German Savings Bank.

Bakery—Frank Vilunick.

Barber Shops—Smith Brothers, Ray Jones and David Orres

Blacksmiths—A. Hopper & Son, Peter Lefferenson, Joseph Green.

Clothing—O. F. Olson, Eichner Brothers.

Cement Blocks—P. C. Ecklers & Son, George Rector.

Creamery—Hartley Creamery Company.

Drugs—T. L. McGuire, Coordes Drug & Jewelry Company.

Dentists—S. F. Conn, Dr. Baker.

Dray Lines—Clifford Dray Line, John Adolph, Will Erbes, R. E. Miller.

- Furniture—Berne & Broders, Lemke Brothers.
 Feed Store—C. H. Bets, Farmers Elevator Company.
 Grocers (exclusive)—Albert Tagge.
 General Dealers—J. C. Keiffer & Company, Lemke Brothers, Herbert & Davidson.
 Hospitals—Dr. Callman's, Dr. Hand.
 Hotels—Park Hotel, The George Hotel.
 Hardware—O. E. Horst, H. L. Failing.
 Harness Shops—L. C. Cody, August Feldhahn.
 Jewelry—Knap & Jones, Coordes Drug & Jewelry Company.
 Lumber—The Floete Lumber Company, The Superior Lumber Company, Hartley Lumber Company.
 Livery—Jap Burson, Hartley Livery Company, Swanson Brothers.
 Meat Market—Ewaldt & Melvin.
 Millinery—Frankie Kline.
 Newspapers—*Hartley Journal*, *Hartley Sentinel*, *Crimson & Gold*.
 Physicians—Dr. F. J. Coleman, Dr. C. E. Phelps, Dr. J. B. Sherbon, Dr. C. W. Hand, Dr. J. W. Conaway.
 Photographers—F. J. Janson.
 Rent Wants—W. R. Wagner, Clarence Hens, J. H. Ray.
 Stockdealers—Burns Brothers, Peter Nelson, James Campbell.
 Shoe Store—W. C. Vogel.
 Veterinary Surgeon—Charles Johnson.
 Wagon Shop—Charles Guenther, Hopper & Son.
 Editors—Eugene Peck, of the *Journal*; Claud A. Charles, of the *Sentinel*; Clarence Peck, of *Crimson and Gold*, a school magazine published each school month.
 Lodges—Masonic, Yeoman, Woodmen of the World.
 Churches—Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, three German churches, Christian Science, Roman Catholic and Seventh-day Adventist.
 The churches, lodges, newspapers, banks, etc., will also be noted in the special chapters on those subjects.

MAYORS.

The mayors of the town have been as follows: E. B. Messer, 1888-89; Frank Kelley, 1890-91; L. Miller, 1892-94; W. B. Waldo, 1894; L. Miller, 1895; W. B. Waldo, 1896; E. Kelley, 1897-99; R. A. Woodward, 1899-04; O. K. McElhinney, 1904-05; F. R. Lock, 1905-12; George Coleman, 1912-14.

CARROLL TOWNSHIP.

On April 1, 1872, the present townships of Carroll and Summit were set off from Liberty and called Carroll, the first election to be held in Ben Hutchinson's store, on the southwest quarter of section 24. This store was conducted by Ben Hutchinson on the prairie during the earliest homesteading years prior to the coming of the railroad to Sheldon. This township was named in honor of Patrick Carroll, who homesteaded the south half of the southeast quarter of section 34 in the township, and who raised a large family.

This township is situated on the western line of the county, second from the northern line. The Sioux Falls branch of the Illinois Central railroad runs through the township from northwest to southeast. Its only station point is the thriving village of Archer, on section 24, about midway between Sheldon and Primghar. The Little Floyd river takes its rise in Franklin township and enters Carroll on section 1 and leaves it from section 7. The incorporation lines of Sheldon take in a portion of this township.

Travel where one may, it is difficult to find a more attractive agricultural district that can be seen in this portion of the county. The farms are all well improved, land is steadily increasing, is now nearing the two-hundred-dollar mark, and men of judgment declare the limit is not nearly reached yet. With good soil, good water, good markets, good schools, etc., it is no wonder that land commands such high figures. Where in all of Iowa's broad domain of excellent land could a farmer better his condition if he is fortunate enough to own one of these farms in Carroll township?

In 1881 the township had a population of only three hundred and twenty-nine; in 1885, it had reached three hundred and ninety-six and the United States census books for 1910 gave it as having six hundred and twelve population. But the change in condition and values has been greater than the increase in population.

EARLY SETTLERS.

W. E. Welch came from Jefferson county, New York, in March, 1871, and at Fort Dodge chanced to meet Archibald Murray, who induced him to accompany him to O'Brien county, and there he remained with Murray as a stopping place for the next two years. Murray secured the south half of section 28 for Welch. He built upon this land in 1872, lived there for a time, then traded for land in Baker township where he continued to reside until 1885, then settled in Sheldon. Welch was at one time a member of the

board of county supervisors, and a thrifty citizen of this county. He was acting sheriff under Sheriff Nissen.

Pennsylvania sent forth one of her sons to become a pioneer in this township: this was in the person of James Roberts, who first located in Poweshiek county and later came to Cherokee. He found there Mr. Woods of this county, who located him on section 28, Carroll township. Forbes Williamson had the claim covered up, as it was then called, but Roberts paid him twenty-eight dollars to get rid of him. He went back and wintered in Poweshiek county in the winter of 1871-72, and in the winter following he was in Pennsylvania. In 1875 he broke out a hundred and twenty acres of his quarter section, and farmed the same, partly himself and partly rented to another. This was the first grasshopper year and he only saved a portion of his crop, which at first was very promising. Ten acres of his land had oats on it and not a bushel was harvested therefrom. Threshing machine men that year in Carroll township charged twenty-five dollars per day for threshing, without regard to the amount of grain yield. When he returned in the spring of 1874, at the Day school house he saw forty odd settlers gathered in a crowd, as he supposed one of the settlers had died, from the dejected look upon the faces of the men there assembled, but soon learned that they were there to receive their apportionment of a relief fund that had been raised and sent into the county to tide the settlers over another year. Mr. Roberts finally came through all right and owned a half section of land in 1897 and a residence in the town of Sheldon.

THE "PATHFINDER" OF O'BRIEN COUNTY.

William Huston Woods, better known as "Huse" Woods, referred to below as having located sundry homesteaders, and referred to in other places in this history as a surveyor, filled much of a needed niche with the old settler in thus getting located. Mr. Woods was the husband of Mrs. Roma W. Woods, who writes one chapter of this history in reminiscences of the early day. This explanation would not have been necessary twenty-five years ago, as then everybody knew him, but we now have seventeen thousand people. He himself homesteaded on the section adjoining the present town of Sutherland. In coming to the county many settlers first landed at Mr. Woods' claim to secure his services. Those in Carroll township, many of them, coming from down near Dubuque, Durant and other places, would make their first trip across the county thus piloted by him. These pilgrimages tramped down the prairie grass and did the first "road work" on the long angling road

from Mr. Woods' place, via Pringhar, through Carroll to Sheldon. It was quite indispensable to this settler, who was staking his little much and all to make a home, even though a shack, to know that he was on the right eighty acres of land. Much of this county being within the railroad limits under the grant of Congress, most of them only got eighty acres. A difference of eighty rods in a survey might mean the whole thing to him. They were dealing with Uncle Sam, an exacting individual. Mr. Woods was a highly educated man, a fine mathematician and an accurate surveyor. He had been a college chum of Col. William P. Hepburn, member of Congress from the eighth Iowa district. The old United States surveys were even then more than twenty years old, and the tall prairie grass shut out from view many of the government corners. They had to be "found." The prairie grass all looked alike. This sameness to so large an expanse made this item quite a problem. It is probably correct to say that Mr. Woods thus located a full half of the six hundred homesteaders, as likewise many settlers on the deeded townships. He understood the "pits and mounds," put on the treeless prairies by Uncle Sam's surveyors. His actual mileage in foot travel in the decade 1870-1880 would run into the many thousands in these surveys. He was a man much in politics, but never sought an office. He probably spent more actual time than any other half dozen men during the same years as leader in the organization of the Taxpayers' Association in earnest effort to defeat what all agreed was an unjust debt. One quite primitive, yet practical, method used by the early pioneers, and even by these surveyors in their trial efforts to find corners and lines was to tie a handkerchief to the spoke of the buggy or wagon, and count its revolutions as one drove along, first measuring the tire, to make the computation. Many land agents did this for years later on. The writer has thus counted these revolutions of wheels in the many thousands in single days to determine some corner. In these tedious surveys to find corners, the actual government corner was the main feature, and in these locations of early homesteaders Mr. Woods may be said to have been literally and in fact the "Pathfinder of O'Brien County."

Pioneer W. H. Woods also located W. C. Butterfield in 1870 on section 4 of Carroll township. He returned in 1871, proved up and brought his family on to become permanent settlers. He hauled lumber from Cherokee and erected a small, but comfortable, house in the fall of 1871. He had formerly been a merchant in Durant, Cedar county, Iowa. Later, he embarked in business in Sheldon. He was also a shoemaker and in 1873 "cobbled" many a pair of boots and shoes for homesteaders for which he was never paid a cent, and really never asked pay.

Charles F. Butterfield, son of the Vermont Yankee Butterfield, located in Carroll township in 1871 on section 4. He broke up land the first season, wintered at Durant, Iowa, and returned the following spring. He made the first track through the wild prairie grass between where Pringhar now stands and his place, and this trail was long used as a well traveled wagon road. Subsequently, he located in the shoe trade at Sheldon. His brother also claimed land here, remained a while, moved to Montana and died many years since. Another younger son became possessed of a good paying government position in the Rosebud Indian agency, being at the head of the Indian school.

J. J. Hartenbower, later a large capitalist in the city of Des Moines, settled on section 34 in 1872. He was desperately poor, but forged to the front and became a wealthy man of the state and later mayor of Des Moines, as likewise he had been mayor of Sheldon.

Another settler was W. H. Dorsey, brother of "Star Route" Senator Dorsey, who was an early settler on the southwest quarter of section 2.

Other pioneers in Carroll township were, J. R. Deacon, on section 6; Gladney Ewers, on section 32; L. G. Healey, long a deputy sheriff, on section 14, who later died on the Pacific coast; B. Hutchinson, on section 24, who kept a store there until Sheldon came into existence. Also A. J. Brock, on section 10; D. Barrett, on section 24; Nancy A. Bush, on section 32; R. H. Cook, on section 2; Paul Casely, on section 22; R. H. Cook, later of Dakota; John Clements, on section 28; Robert Cowan, on section 30; Harley Day, on section 26; James B. Frisbee, on section 14; Frank Frisbee, on section 14; E. S. Huber, on section 23; L. A. Hornberger, on section 34; M. H. Hart, on section 27; C. P. Jones, on section 18; T. M. Lemaster, on section 24; Harvey Luce, section 30; C. C. Miller, section 4; D. N. McElwain, section 4, came in 1872, and died many years later. He was known as "Uncle Nick," and was a sturdy character and always lived by the Golden Rule. Dan McKay located on section 6, in 1871, many years a deputy sheriff and many years later removed to Tacoma. His son, who was trained and schooled in this county, is now a well-known attorney in Tacoma.

John Griffith settled on section 2, which land was kept in the family ever afterwards. William Moffitt settled on section 20, as did Dan Moffitt, while Frank located on section 22 and Erwin on section 28. John W. Nelson claimed a part of section 24, where he spent the remainder of his life. Peter A. Nelson made his original settlement on section 36, worked at the mason's trade in Sheldon and died in the nineties.

William W. Reynolds settled on section 22 of Carroll township and later on was for many years a member of the board of supervisors; he was by trade a mason and a prince among his fellow men; he died at Sheldon. J. F. Stone located on section 8, and later became a furniture dealer in Sheldon. Henry Whitmore located on section 4 and Louie and Nick Younger on section 30; C. D. Pottinger settled on section 16; Silas Poole claimed a part of section 26, and Mary Priest was on section 14.

George W. Schee, who is prominent in the county and in this history, settled on the southwest quarter of section 26, in 1872.

George Mennig, from Davenport, Iowa, first located in Liberty township in 1869 and the following year built a shack and broke up some of his claim. In the fall of 1870 he filed a contest on the southeast quarter of section 18 in Carroll township and was successful in his contest. He settled there in April, 1871. Three years hard running he lost his crops by grasshoppers and dry weather, but steadily kept pressing onward.

Claus Klindt and family came in with Mr. Mennig in the spring of 1871, settling on the northeast quarter of section 18, Carroll township. C. P. Jones and family came in the same time with Klindt and located on the same section. Klindt was a peculiar man and later in Dakota committed suicide, it is said.

Thomas Holmes, homesteader on section 22, was an Englishman and cousin to John H. and William Archer and William Briggs. He was a member of the board of supervisors from Carroll for six years during the trying times in getting the county on a cash basis, and with Ezra M. Brady, George W. Schee and others, deserves much credit for that county financeering. M. F. McNutt has for some years been a later member of that body from Carroll, doing corresponding work, but belongs to the later and building period of the county, as likewise was E. H. McClellan, a member for some years. A. H. Herrick, Miss C. A. Herrick and Frank L. Herrick, for four years later on county recorder, all homesteaded on section 12. George N. Klock, long known as an eccentric and wit and now for years residing in Sheldon, settled on 8.

D. A. W. Perkins, editor, lawyer, politician and author of one of the first histories of O'Brien county, effected his settlement in Floyd township, and made his home at pioneer Butterfield's, before named, as being associated with the pioneer band of Carroll township. Mr. Perkins now resides at Highmore, South Dakota. He is a many-sided man and possessed of many manly traits of character, and in several ways a man of more than ordinary

ability. He and a well-known Methodist minister had a claim contest which Mr. Perkins gives an account of in his old history of this county, which shows the condition of things here in the early seventies, also the make-up of the two men claiming the same land, under the homestead rights, hence we quote Mr. Perkins' account in full:

"The writer returned to Wilton, in Muscatine county, where he was living, after completing the sod shack and filing in the land office. In the spring of 1872, with some others of Dubuque, I returned, drove up from Cherokee, and about the first of April landed on the claim again. As we drove in sight of it we could see a building had been placed there during the winter in the writer's absence.

"Truly, here was a dilemma, a difference in opinion as to who had placed that building on the claim, whether he was a pigny or a giant, an innocent member of the Young Men's Christian Association, or a cow-boy. Upon inquiring, however, in a few days we learned it was a Methodist preacher with only one arm. This, of course, settled the question of muscular supremacy, for we felt if we could not get away with a one-armed preacher, he was entitled to that quarter section, with the sod shack and its belongings thrown in. About two weeks after that we went down to Cherokee for provisions, and while at the depot when the train came in from the east, the writer saw a one-armed man get off the train. He had the garb of a preacher, and the thought was, of course, here was the offender and the cause of all our prospective trouble, and not even his clerical position shall save him from a going over, and perhaps a tromcing if he was the slightest inclined to talk back. Someone knowing the circumstances and the parties, brought the preacher and the writer face to face and introduced us. The preacher at once, without fear of man or God before his eyes, 'So you are on my claim, are you?' The gall of the fellow was immensely audacious and for a moment we were paralyzed, not with fear, but surprise. We recovered, however, enough to say we had moved a building up against his building and against his door; that we had three Winchesters, four bowie knives, an oak club with knots on it, and a bull-dog, and the first attempt he made even to go to his claim he would be slaughtered right there, and his miserable carcass thrown to the prairie wolves. This was said with dramatic pose, and in such a way that the preacher walked off, muttering to himself. He did come around, however, in about two weeks and mildly inquired if he would be permitted to haul his building away, and was mildly told that he could. He sold it to Ed. Bache, in Floyd township, where it still stands on Ed's claim.

"The preacher was vanquished and peace was restored. This was Rev. Ira Brashers, who was pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Sheldon and Sanborn afterwards, and was also postmaster at Sanborn."

Having traced out the location and dates of many of the pioneers of Carroll township, it is now left to state something concerning the first actual settler within the limits of the township—Patrick Carroll, for whom the township was named, and rightfully, too. He came from Illinois in the spring of 1870, with two teams and wagons and with his entire family, a wife and eight children. They were three weeks enroute to Chokee. Coming up from Cherokee, Mr. Carroll met a team whose driver was asked about where he would find the "town of Waterman," having been told that it was quite a good sized place, when, in fact, it consisted only of the humble habitation of Mr. and Mrs. Waterman, the first O'Brien county settlers. The reply came from the son of the Emerald Isle, quick and full of wit, "A devil a bit of use is it for ye's to be enquiring for a town in a new country like thot." Mr. Carroll soon found the Irishman was correct! He finally located on the southeast quarter of section 34, this township. He dug a well and with his covers from the wagons made a tent in which the family lived until he could do better. He traded his horses for oxen and with them broke his raw prairie land sufficient to raise a crop the following year. In the fall of the year he worked on the railroad grade and thus kept the wolf from the door. He finally succeeded and became well off. He died in March, 1896, his good wife having passed away on November 23, 1883. The township of Carroll, bearing his name, will ever be his monument to future readers of local annals. The one town in this township is very appropriately named Archer. John Archer for whom it is named, owns about four thousand acres immediately adjoining the town. He was the founder of and he has the chief business in the place today.

We should also mention Robert T. Hayes, now deceased, who owned the plat just on the north of the town of Archer, where he resided until his death, and where his widow and six children now reside. He was an unique and original character, in that he had a very retentive memory and could repeat the history of his town and township and that part of the county in all its details and dates. William W. and John S. Bonderman, who also have resided upon and owned land immediately adjoining the town for many years on the south and west, have done much for both the town and township. Austin Watson and his son George, just east of the town, but in Summit township, have done far more than the usual part in building up Archer as

a thriving, wide-awake business place, and in making it one of the best markets in the county. Mr. Watson has been in more ways than one, both to the individual and to the town, "a friend in need," and taken a prominent part in politics and public affairs, and in putting both Archer and his part of the county on the map. Archer has been very exceptional in this, that, though one of the smaller towns, with population of three hundred and fifty-one, it has actually tested out as a vigorous rival of the larger towns in the county in extent of shipments and business. Archer has been specially fortunate in the loyalty of its farmers towards the town.

ARCHER.

The town of Archer was named for John H. Archer, who owned the land upon which the town was platted. He was an extensive farmer, and is now largely interested in the town, but resides in Sheldon, where he is also interested in banking.

The town was platted in 1888 on the south half of the southeast quarter of section 24 in Carroll township, by William Van Epps and Charles E. McKinney by dedication deed dated February 10, 1888.

On February 12, 1902, twenty-six citizens filed their petition before Judge George W. Wakefield in the district court, praying for the incorporation of said eighty acres of land to be known as Archer. On February 25, 1902, the court appointed W. T. Brooks, F. A. Beers, A. Menning, P. S. Tanner and Eugene Sullivan as commissioners and incorporators of the town and to act as judges of and to hold the first election. Notice of same was published three weeks in the *O'Brien County Bell*. At the election held March 25, 1902, the vote stood twenty-seven to one in favor of incorporation. At the first election of officials, held April 21, 1902, W. J. Sinyard was elected as its first mayor, and S. George Pederson, Henry Teimens, A. Menning, P. S. Tanner, F. W. Nelson and E. W. Chapman as its first council. Mr. Sinyard was elected for five successive terms, ten years in all. He was followed in the mayor's office by Dr. M. D. Kiely, Samuel Webster and C. S. Goodrich. The present officers of the municipality are C. S. Goodrich, mayor; R. E. McQuinn, clerk; Will Clow, treasurer, and Jacob Duimstra, Benjamin Olsen, W. J. Sinyard, Henry Teimens and H. C. Henspeter, councilmen.

The town was laid out on the then new railroad built in 1887, then known as the Sioux Falls & Cherokee Railroad, and later reorganized and incorporated as part of the Illinois Central Railroad system.

The first building erected was a blacksmith shop in March, 1888. Within a few months a postoffice was established with T. B. White appointed as its first postmaster, but, failing to qualify, A. A. Bisbee, the pioneer merchant and partner with West & Bisbee, who started the first store, was appointed and qualified. Milo Benedict was the first station agent. The firm of West & Bisbee, soon after failing in business, was succeeded by H. H. Parish, who became in turn postmaster and built up a large trade. W. J. Sinyard soon after became depot agent and acted in this capacity for several years, and until he became cashier of the Bank of Archer.

The following is a full list of the postmasters: A. A. Bisbee, H. H. Parish, H. L. Williams, H. H. Parish, H. K. Smith, Eugene Sullivan, Joe Lamkin, C. M. Pederson, H. A. Lemkuil and C. M. Pederson.

The business interests of Archer in the year 1914 are represented as follows: Goodrich & Co. and Garrett Vander Schoor, general stores; Chris Peterson, harness shop; Jacob Duinstra, hardware merchant; Henry Teimens, blacksmith; Mrs. John Tanner, restaurant; John Harn, pool hall; A. J. Byers, barber; Henry Kleinheksel, livery; Joseph Lamkin, meats; Edmonds-Londergan & Co., lumber, etc.; Archer Co-operative Grain Co., grain, etc.; C. S. Goodrich, auto garage; B. S. Renswick, creamery; C. M. Pederson, postmaster and telephone manager.

For the statement and history of the Bank of Archer, see the chapter on Banks and Banking, and for its churches, see the chapter on churches.

The professional interests are well taken care of by Dr. M. D. Kiply, who located here in 1898 and has built up a very extensive practice.

ARCHER SCHOOLS.

The town of Archer, in its school relations, has had an unique experience, in this, that its school building and grounds are owned by the incorporated town of Archer, as a municipal corporation. This is not true of any other town in the county. It came about in this way. Archer is not an independent school district. It is a part of the school township and in one of its districts. The town being on the edge of the school township, thus twenty-four miles around it, the rural districts could not bring themselves up to the point of voting funds for a building adequate for town purposes. Undaunted, the enterprising citizens of the town, in the year 1900, by private subscription erected a two-story school building at a cost of three thousand five hundred dollars. The town or district then entered into a friendly

agreement with the school township whereby the town shall furnish the school building and the school township shall bear the management expenses.

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP.

Summit township was not settled as soon as other parts of the county, but is now all well developed and land sells from one hundred and fifty dollars to two hundred dollars per acre. Its population in 1905, according to the state census returns, was five hundred and fifteen. It was organized as follows: On May 7, 1873, all of section 36 of what is now Summit, whereon Pringhar now stands, was set off from the then Carroll and added to Center. Therefore Pringhar at one time belonged to Center. On December 27, 1873, what is now Summit was detached from Carroll. In describing what should be Summit it declared it was to be bounded on the east by "96-40" and on the South by "95-41," so that in effect it set back Pringhar to Summit. Later on in the years all the territory within the limits of the incorporated town of Pringhar was made part of Summit township. This puts Peck & Shuck's addition and Slocum, Turner & Armstrong's additions to Pringhar, which are in congressional Center, into Summit township and also puts Derby & Rowan's addition to Pringhar, which is in congressional Dale, into Summit, as at present situated.

A portion of the town of Pringhar is situated within the southeast corner of this township. There are no other towns or parts of towns in this sub-division of the county. John and Will Archer were early comers to this part of O'Brien county. The last named was at one time connected with the Pringhar Savings Bank and was a very liberal man and highly public spirited. He donated much toward the present Methodist Episcopal church at Pringhar and after its completion he donated a pulpit set, and chairs for infants' use in Sunday school. He moved to Burlington, Iowa, where he engaged in the manufacture of crackers. Others were Drew Arnold and Barney Snyder. The latter took a homestead which he proved up on and still lives there in good circumstances. John Archer's father-in-law, Mr. Ballou, was very early in the settlement and is still living, but not a resident of the township. In the north part of the township was Charles Burns, who still resides in O'Brien county, honored and respected. Another was William Artman, who came in the eighties, made good improvements and accumulated much property.

This township had some tree claims, but few homesteads, when the

settlement was effected. One "forty" in some way slipped the notice of all land-lookers until very late, when David Algyer, an abstractor, now living at Paullina, discovered it and entered it as his homestead. He made the usual improvements and finally sold it after proving up. This was on section 29 and is the forty owned by Joseph Hulbach. Other pioneer settlers here were as follows: Joseph Potter, who came just after Mr. Holbach. M. M. Ray, now residing in Pringhar, a carpenter by trade, settled in the southeast part of Summit in the seventies; married, reared his family and then moved to town, having rented his farm. Joseph Geister, ex-sheriff of O'Brien county, was early in the township, as was his father-in-law, Mr. Harges, who came to the county with over twenty thousand dollars. He was a plain dressed man and wore an odd coonskin cap. He appeared at the teller's window at a bank in Sanborn and wanted to deposit money. The banker did not believe he had a dollar, but treated him gentlemanly and soon he drew from one pocket several thousand dollars and deposited that and then dug up more from other pockets in his plain clothes, until he had taken out the sum of twenty thousand dollars. Then he commenced picking up land in O'Brien county and at one time had many broad acres.

Another one recalled by present-day settlers was James See's father, who located near Mr. Geister's present farm. The old gentleman is now deceased.

Summit is also one of the deeded townships it only having three homesteads in it. Stephen J. Jordan was an old soldier and homesteader. He met with an accident in a runaway, from the injuries of which he died. The Stephen Jordan Grand Army post at Pringhar was named for him. George B. Davids was one of the very early settlers, but soon became a banker with the Ellis brothers and Morton Wilber at Sanborn, in the State Bank. John H. Archer has the credit of being the largest farmer in the county, having about four thousand acres, nearly all of which lies in Summit township. Mr. Archer himself resided with his family on a part of this long stretch of farm, or farms, for more than twenty-five years. While also a banker on a large scale, he has been personally and actively engaged in farming. Philip Brundage was one of the oldest timers in this township on section 22. Two of his sons, John R. and William, still reside in the township. Another son, Selonius, and two daughters, Mrs. M. D. Finch and Mrs. Anna Bradley, reside in and near Sheldon. The court house and all the business part of Pringhar lies in this township.

GENERAL COMMENT ON THE TOWNSHIPS.

In the early times each settled township for taxation purposes wanted a deeded township to aid in revenue and taxes. It was the law that territory of any one township must be contiguous. Carroll was almost surrounded by settled townships. She wanted Lincoln for company as a township. To avoid the dilemma the novel idea was suggested and carried out, and the north row of forties of the present Summit was detached from Summit, and with Lincoln made Carroll. The now Lincoln and Carroll were thus united, like the Siamese twins, by this fiddle-string ligament. A genuine case of "taxation for revenue only," as the political phrase then went, all done to make the territory contiguous as by law in such cases provided. This fiddle string was given back to Summit June 8, 1880.

It should be added that there is now and has been for several years another civil township in O'Brien county, not usually known to many within the county, even in Sheldon city itself. This is known as Sheldon township, and includes all of the incorporation of the city of Sheldon, and no more territory. It was so created that the city of Sheldon might have two justices of peace within her corporate limits.

PRIMGHAR.

Of the railroad towns of the county, Primghar is second in point of time, though sharing with Sheldon its start in the same year, 1872, with Sheldon a few months ahead. Primghar has had some unique experiences. Its first forty acres of platted ground was elected by the votes of the county on November 11, 1872, by a vote of three hundred and sixty to fifty-three to be the county seat, before it was named—before it was born, so to speak.

It has a distinct claim to originality in its name. Its name was made up from the initials of the names of the eight men chiefly taking part in platting it:

Pumphrey, the treasurer, drives the first nail,
Roberts, the donor, is quick on his trail.
Inman dips slyly his first letter in,
McCormack adds M, which makes the full Prim.
Green, thinking of groceries, gives them the G.
Hayes drops them an H, without asking a fee,
Albright, the joker, with his jokes all at par,
Rerick brings up the rear and crowns all "Primghar."

Pringhar became a town when there were but six and one-half miles of railroad built in the county, the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad to Sheldon. During the first fifteen years of its existence it was without a railroad, and was in its sixteenth year when it was incorporated as a town.

All these items had their reasons. The land grant by Congress of May 12, 1864, provided that the Milwaukee railroad should be built through O'Brien county "as near the forty-third parallel of latitude as may be." This forty-third parallel is two miles south of Pringhar. Its people reasonably expected to be thus the one big town in the county at date of platting. One other clause of that grant provided that the Milwaukee road should make a junction with the Sioux City road inside of O'Brien county. The Sioux City road the following year entered O'Brien county at Sheldon, and resulted in the Milwaukee road being compelled to build six miles north of town. This new plan of railroad building had the effect of putting the Milwaukee road through the north tier of townships, and the Northwestern railroad through the south tier of townships, and finally the Illinois Central Railroad angling through the county and through Pringhar, saving to Pringhar a railroad, it is true, for which it had worked and fought for fifteen years. All this, however, distributed the towns and divided up the county into six lesser sized towns, instead of perhaps two large towns. Pringhar and Sheldon, had the original intent of Congress been carried out. To get the county seat into the "exact" center was still another thought fixing its destiny, this exact center being in fact inside its corporate limits.

These facts left Pringhar "in the air," as it were, for all these fifteen years, both on county-seat and railroad expectations. As all things have their causes, this in large part resulted in giving Pringhar the unusual experience of having engaged in four full fledged county-seat fights. No other county in the state has had a like experience.

This long wait was much occupied in all sorts of railroad meetings by the people generally, reaching out to the Legislature, Congress and to Eastern capitalists, to get anybody interested who might build a road. All sorts of railroad schemes and building scares and false prospects were chased up. It became even a joke through the towns and the county that whenever any other town started a county-seat agitation, that Pringhar always had a ready-made railroad project or series of public meetings to head it off, and much money was uselessly spent, more than its people could afford. All these ideas and contentions were handed down and became a part of its numerous contests for its very existence, the county seat.

J. L. E. Peck, one of the editors of this history, lived in Primghar for ten years without a road and passed through these situations. It did not get its road until 1887. In the meantime the other towns, secure in their roads, outgrew Primghar. As we can see, this of necessity left Primghar very much of a target, which target idea it did not outgrow, in the county-seat contentions, for many years after it in fact got its road. Primghar thus hung in the balances for this full fifteen years, or even more, with from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and twenty-five people, and during this fifteen years could only have two stores and other items in proportion, with the people living on hope and waiting for a road from year to year. This, however, made of Primghar very much of a united town in the numerous contentions she passed through. Its trade was small because its people were few. The writer hereof once wrote some scribblings or items to a neighboring paper, and wrote this joke: "That that week Primghar had a man and a boy, a horse and a dog in town, all trading the same day." While it was a joke, it was too grimly true.

ITS FIRST CHARTER FAMILIES.

Inasmuch as Primghar's families could then be numbered by less than two score, we will give the charter families of its first five years. 1872-1877: John R. Pumphrey, Beuren Chrysler, Isaac W. Daggett, Henrietta Wheeler Acer, Capt. Robert C. Tift, R. G. Allen, John Hollibaugh, Ed. A. Nissen, McAllen Green, William Clark Green, George W. Schee, Judge A. H. Willits, John W. Kelly, Peg Leg Allen, John Richardson, Dr. H. C. West, T. J. Alexander, W. W. Barnes, J. G. Chrysler, A. J. Edwards, Warren Walker, Charley Allen, Stephen Harris, Rev. C. W. Clifton, James Daniels, Lemuel C. Green, J. L. E. Peck, A. J. Brock, Harley Day, Ed. C. Brown, Ed. C. Dean, Dr. A. C. Smith, Charles Titus, Mart Shea.

TOWN PLAT.

On November 8, 1872, William Clark Green and Melvenah S. Green, his wife, and James Roberts dedicated and platted the original town, consisting of thirty acres, into fourteen blocks and one outlot. Its then only attorney, Dewitt C. Hayes, was the draftsman. It was crudely surveyed. As Benjamin F. McCormack informed the writer, in the hurry, winter coming on, buildings were in process of construction by guess, before it was measured off; that he actually measured it off with an ordinary four-foot

lath; that he started out at the center government stone of the county, thence west twenty rods to provide for the ten acres not owned by the donors, then north the eighty rods. But at this point he neglected to measure back east to correct up, to be sure that his line was straight. In fact, he got this point twenty feet too far west. This left a wedge-shaped variation among all the blocks in town. The plat itself was platted regular, with right measurements, but every stake in town was wrong. All this gave much contention for years as to lot and building lines. This accounts for some buildings even to this day being out in the street sundry feet. At one time a livery barn near the school corner was fourteen feet into the street, being built according to McCormack's measurement in fact, then in the prairie grass. These contentions continued until 1888, when the whole town entered into an agreed petition in an actual suit in equity in court, entitled E. W. Shuck vs. George W. Schee and fifty others, the district court appointed a surveyor from Sioux City, and a resurvey was made and all corners located with stakes and stones with charcoal footings at all the points where the recorded plat placed them.

PETITION TO RELOCATE AT PRIMGHAR.

The petition to relocate the county seat at Primghar was circulated and presented to the board, September 5, 1872, by Dewitt C. Hayes, the first attorney in Primghar, and which resulted in the election or vote on same being ordered on November 11, 1872.

PUBLIC WELFARE PROVIDED FOR.

Messrs. Green and Roberts, in their dedication deed, generously provided for the public business, the future of the schools and the moralities, by donating one whole block of two acres each, respectively, block 12 to O'Brien county for a court house, block 13 for a public school, and block 14 to the Methodist church. Later on, in the year 1876, this church block was exchanged for two church sites for the church proper on block 16 and parsonage on block 17, on which the properties of that church now stand.

THE PUBLIC SQUARE IN PRIMGHAR.

The public square was immediately taken possession of by O'Brien county. The board of supervisors in 1878 planted this plat of two acres to trees. William D. Slack did the planting and Emanuel Kindig, a member

of the board, cultivated them during the year. This grove, now thirty-six years old, forms the splendid park in which not only Primghar takes a pride, but a like pride is kept up throughout the county, and in which many notable and large gatherings of old settlers, conventions and public meetings have been held. The first part of the summer of 1878 was excessively dry, and the little sprigs, having been practically planted in the prairie sod, did not leaf out until the rains began in August. The two court houses and additions thereto built on this square will be noted in the article on court houses. In 1891 the county, the town of Primghar, George W. Schee and C. S. Cooper combined or contributed in hauling down the dirt from the grading of the hill at Mr. Schee's residence, in all about two thousand yards of earth, covering the square from six to eighteen inches deep. The south and west sides of the square was then a boggy and muddy slough, which made this necessary. Later on, from time to time, the county constructed a fine cement sidewalk entirely around the square. Still later on, in 1911, the county paid its share in the sum of one thousand one hundred dollars for the construction of the sewerage system constructed in Primghar that year. This system was constructed in its proportions as estimated by the board of supervisors and the constructing engineer to be adequate for all time in its future public buildings.

FIRST BUILDINGS.

In the fall of 1872 buildings were rushed up. Clark Green built the first store building in the summer of 1873, and immediately installed a stock of goods, in fact was selling goods in it before completion. It was in size about forty-four by seventy. Here he dished out groceries and goods to the old homesteaders until 1879, when it broke him up and he made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. This building was on the site of the Bell block. In 1873 Warren Walker built a large office and residence thirty by sixty, near Nye's store. Charles F. Albright erected the first hotel on the site of Reynoldson's store building. It was perhaps forty by fifty in size. Payne's store, for years conducted on section 8, in Highland township, was moved on back part of the block north of the square, and occupied as a court house until the then new court house was built on the northeast corner of the square in 1874, and was in size about forty feet square, with a stairway running up on outside. Judge A. H. Willits, in 1872, built a residence on the site of the Northside restaurant, with a small printing office, to which he moved the *O'Brien Pioneer* and at once commenced publishing that paper.

He had conducted it at Old O'Brien not quite a year. John R. Pumphrey at once built a small bank building, about twenty by thirty in size, with a common iron safe, in the same, on the present site of the Hub hotel. Capt. R. C. Tift built what he called the Arctic restaurant, in which he ran both restaurant and saloon. In 1873 was built the first school building, in size about thirty by sixty, two stories in height, with two rooms. A little later, in 1874, John W. Kelly built the Kelly hotel, standing just west of Pumphrey's bank, in size about twenty-four by sixty. Church services were in the meantime, and until 1879, held in either the school room or court room. Charles Titus built the first livery on the site of the present Southside livery. The public officials moved to town and each built houses. These constituted the buildings until 1878, when it became settled that the town would not get the Milwaukee road.

EXODUS OF BUILDINGS.

During this year, 1878-79, there were about or close to fifty to seventy-five buildings moved to the town of Sanborn and in 1881 to Sutherland and Paullina when the Northwestern road was built. Thus Primghar furnished many of the first buildings to those three towns. It was "Blue Monday" for Primghar. The sound of hammers was as vigorous in destruction and removal as if in construction. It indeed continued in uncertainty. But the country was by this time reviving, land was advancing, and there was plenty of business for those actually remaining here, and everybody prospered nevertheless.

SOCIABILITIES AND AMUSEMENTS.

Possibly the town population at this period, 1878, numbered close to three hundred. Never was there a better lyceum conducted in any town anywhere, where the whole citizenship took part in the discussion of the county problems then in agitation, and other subjects, than were held during those five years. Everybody was everybody else's equal. The town citizenship conducted the play of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" one winter, and played it twice, at which it had large delegations from Sheldon, and with the proceeds outfitted a band costing one hundred and fifty dollars. Charles H. Allen, attorney, was a skilled bandmaster, and Primghar never had so good a band as in those years of its pioneer time. Sociables, advertised as "hay twisters" sociables, were held. After the close of the lyceum proper, and the preacher had been invited to go home, the seats of the court room were whirled to the

sides of the room, and Mr. Allen, with his musicians, rendered music for an old-time dance until twelve o'clock. Mrs. Henrietta W. Acer, a really skilled pianist, conducted the choir for the one and only church, and a church organ was purchased in 1876, costing four hundred dollars and was fully paid for. The one help-out for Primghar was the item that goes with all pioneer communities, namely, "Everybody was on hand at early candle sticken," as Pomp McCormack used to announce the public functions.

A REVIVAL FROM THIS EXODUS.

But with all this discouragement and even before a railroad was assured and despite the uncertainty, Primghar brisked up with new buildings and enough people to make up the lost ones moving to Sanborn. One Alexander Davidson, a Scotchman, opened up a hardware store east of Mr. Schee's office. In 1886, amid all these situations, William S. Armstrong, since and still identified with Primghar's best, came on from Wisconsin and started a cheese factory, and erected a good-sized building east of Mr. Schee's office, which he conducted for some years with success. This improvement gave new heart to the people and held the stage, as it were, until the railroad was actually built in 1887. While in this exodus John R. Pumphrey closed his bank, which he sold to Schee & Achorn, composed of George W. Schee and Clinton E. Achorn, who in turn sold to Slocum & Turner in 1883 (composed of George R. Slocum, who in reality founded the First National Bank, and became a man of affairs in the county, and Frank A. Turner, clerk of the courts). In 1886, and before the road was built, the Primghar State Bank was started in the present office of Mr. Schee, by a strong company of men, composed of George W. Schee, president, Fred and Frank Frisbee and Dr. C. Longshore, of Sheldon, and R. Blankenberg, now (1913) mayor of Philadelphia. The first large burglar-proof vault was built in this bank. J. L. E. Peck was cashier. It continued for eight years. As will be seen under the title of churches, the first church building was built in 1880. In 1886 the present and then new court house was built. The old Green store was opened up and continued by several parties in turn, Walter Lorshbaugh, Lew Fairbanks, Mr. Schee and others. A new fence was built around the public square to protect the now growing park grove. As will also be seen under churches, the Congregational church first organized itself in the court house and later built the first part of its church. Herb Thayer, about 1886, built the present Griffin building, at the southeast corner of the square, and started



PRINGHAR PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING

his land and abstract office. In 1886, and before the railroad coming, "Pomp" F. M. McCormack hove into town with his first number of the *O'Brien County Bell*. All this created a real revival. Whisperings of the possible Illinois Central Railroad began to be heard. By many it was considered too good to be true, and laughed out of court as part of the same old railroad scares.

II. THE RAILROAD.

These railroad whisperings continued in the dawn, but this time to rise like a halo of glory to its long-waiting citizens. The definite order or invitation came at last in about April, 1887, from Superintendent Gilleas, and one of the main officials of the Illinois Central Railroad, to meet them at Cherokee, naming a specific day and hour. While its citizens were ready to go to Washington, or Texas, for a reality, yet they went down much like doubting Thomases. Ten of us went down. They dealt with us from a cold-blooded standpoint. They laid down the one and only proposition that was made. Pringhar gently tried for some little leeways, but the hard fate to be met was before us. The railroad must be had even on hard terms. It was none other than that its ten citizens present should sign a written guaranty already prepared, to furnish and hand over warranty deeds, with good title and clear of encumbrance, to the right of way for twenty-two miles, and thirteen acres for depot grounds at Pringhar. There was no choice. The instrument was executed and signed by the following ten citizens of Pringhar: George W. Schee, George R. Slocum, Frank A. Turner, William S. Armstrong, Frank N. Derby, Charles H. Winterble, Charles F. Albright, E. W. Shuck, J. L. E. Peck and F. M. McCormack. This was signed up without the least idea of what it might cost, though sundry guesses were made. It, in fact, cost something over ten thousand dollars. Every man in town was assessed. He did not only subscribe, but was assessed, as the amount had to be raised. Every man did his part. Sundry of its citizens spent the best part of the summer at the work. This twenty-two miles extended from Archer to the Cherokee line.

ACTUAL BUILDING OF THE ROAD.

The work of the surveys and building commenced forthwith and with dispatch. The road took possession of parts of the right of way before the town had made contracts for same. The whole road was finished during the summer. Pringhar citizens were given the choice to have its depot east of

Reynoldson's store, or where it is. In a public street meeting with Superintendent Gilleas, the location was decided. The depot grounds and right of way where it is could be purchased cheaper. Later desires would have said at the other point.

THE FIRST TRAIN AND ENGINE.

It was on Sunday, November 1, 1887, the greatest event, vital in its results, that ever occurred in Pringhar. The construction train that laid the actual iron rails as it moved, arrived. The whole citizenship of Pringhar broke the Sabbath day in righteous celebration and were all present. It was a sight within itself to see a large gang of husky men handle and lay those heavy rails, but to Pringhar it was the looking of Moses into the promised land. "Pomp" McCormack mounted the front of the engine a mile below town, with a flag, the Stars and Stripes waving, and he shouting and yelling at the top of his voice. Pringhar was at last on the map as a railroad town. Trains at once followed and the depot was built.

A NEW TOWN.

A new town jumped into existence. New buildings, new people, everything moved. The new buildings were still frame, however. Too many stores were at first started. In the hustle the true measure could not be taken on all lines. This caused some break-ups a year later. The Ober hotel, called the Commercial house, was built in 1893, south of the savings bank. Reynoldson & Metcalf, composed of Joseph Reynoldson and Joseph Metcalf, arrived in 1887 and built a frame hardware store on the site of Metcalf's brick block, built later in 1893. Mr. Ostrander and Reader & Edington, composed of Rice Reader and Ira Edington, each erected buildings and put in a general store on the south side. Henry L. Williams, the same year, 1888, built his large line of department store buildings, covering all classes of goods. W. A. Rosecrans and Charles Lockyer built and opened up a furniture and undertaking store. W. J. Semmons also put in a large store building and opened up. Thus far these buildings were all frame.

FIRST BRICK BUILDING.

The first brick building was the present postoffice building, now owned by Gust Strandberg, and erected in 1889 by J. L. E. Peck and C. S. Cooper

THREE FIRES BURN TWENTY-ONE BUILDINGS.

The first fire in the business section of the town occurred in 1900 and burned the old bank building of John R. Pumphrey and the Kelly hotel building. The second fire, in 1901, burned the Commercial hotel and some lesser property. The third fire occurred in 1902. The fire caught in the then post-office building on the South side, and practically burned down as far as Metcalf's store. The three fires destroyed twenty-one buildings. The city council then passed an ordinance to the effect that no further frame, and none but brick, buildings should be erected on the square.

PRIMGHAR IS INCORPORATED.

Dated December 8, 1887, Frank A. Turner and forty-nine others circulated a petition directed to the district court praying for an order of court to incorporate the town, to include three hundred and sixty acres of land in the three townships of Summit, Center and Dale. This petition was filed December 30, 1887. At the January term for 1888 the order was made. This term was presided over by Hon. Scott M. Ladd, then district judge, now one of the judges of the supreme court of Iowa. On January 13, 1888, the court appointed William S. Armstrong, David Algyer, George W. Doyle, E. W. Shuck and W. A. Rosecrans as commissioners to call an election of the voters to determine whether it should or should not be incorporated. Notice was published and an election held on February 14, 1888. The vote stood fifty-seven for incorporation and forty-seven against. Thereafter the town became a municipality.

FIRST ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At the next regular election, held on the last Monday in March, 1888, the following men were elected as its first mayor and council: Mayor, Charles F. Albright; councilmen, E. W. Shuck, J. L. E. Peck, George R. Slocum, George W. Doyle, E. L. Ballou and W. A. Rosecrans; recorder, J. A. Smith.

THE PRESENT (1913) ADMINISTRATION.

Mayor William H. Downing; councilmen, William Briggs, M. S. Metcalf, R. Hinman, B. Bertelson and C. W. Smith; Earl Rosecrans, recorder. The following is a list of the mayors of Primghar, the several officials

commencing their terms in March of the years named: Charles F. Albright, 1888; Frank A. Turner, 1890; William H. Noyes, 1891; S. A. Carter, 1892; F. C. Whitehouse, 1893; J. L. E. Peck, 1896; George R. Whitmer, 1898; W. S. Armstrong, 1900; Peter R. Bailey, 1902; W. W. Artherholt, 1904; Thomas J. Trulock, 1910; W. H. Downing, 1912.

The sundry items relating to court houses and county affairs and the erection of the Hub hotel taking place in Primghar will be found under other heads.

GRIST MILL IN PRIMGHAR.

Probably but few people now in Primghar ever knew that the town once had a regular old-fashioned grist mill, to which people brought their grists of wheat and other grain to be ground on a one-tenth toll. It was built about 1875 and removed to Osceola county in 1878. It was owned and built by Christian F. Krueger, then a farmer both in Summit township and in Osceola county. It stood on the location of the present residence of Isaac L. Rerick, east of the Methodist church.

EPIDEMIC OF DIPHTHERIA.

This epidemic occurred during the winter of 1879 and 1880. Twenty-six children and young people died. The following families were among those who suffered from this dread disease: Daniel W. Inman, two daughters; John W. Kelly and Harley Day, each a daughter; James E. Daniels, a son and daughter, all the children they had; William Newell, their whole family of four children; Joshua W. Davis, half their number of eight; John Richardson, a son and daughter, and several others that now cannot be determined.

A HOSPITAL IN PRIMGHAR.

Following the three other towns, Sheldon, Hartley and Calumet, which towns already each have a hospital, Primghar has (this 1914) a hospital under construction. It is built under the benefaction and donation of George Ward, now and for some years one of its chief citizens and a former successful farmer in Center township. It is in size thirty-two by forty feet, built of cement blocks. On the first floor will be found a reception and dining room and kitchen. It will be two stories in height, exclusive of basement for laundry and modern needs. It will be equipped with an operating and sterilizing room, with five patients' rooms, each large enough for two beds

when necessary. It is donated to the town, but with the idea on Mr. Ward's part that, being centrally located, it will be county wide for the benefit of all its people, all of whom he urges to co-operate. Enthusiastic public meetings have been held in Primghar, assuring this co-operation. It is Mr. Ward's idea that when once built it will be self-sustaining.

This history has carried the county up through the pioneer period, then through the growing and building years, and now as the larger successes of life are maturing, the county is passing up into the generous and philanthropic, where the human hearts are thus able to play those better parts, in the language of the Great Physician, to "heal the sick."

PRIMGHAR SCHOOLS AND BUILDINGS.

On November 8, 1872, W. C. Green and James Roberts dedicated as part of the town a two-acre block for school purposes. Primghar has had three school buildings. The first building was about twenty-six by forty feet in size, was two stories high and built in 1873 by S. E. Stewart, of Sheldon, at a cost of four thousand dollars. It contained two school rooms, one above and one below. This building was used for school, church, conventions, dances, lyceums and public gatherings. It was sold in 1887, when the new building was built, to S. T. Hill for two hundred dollars and moved to Alton, Iowa.

Up to February 21, 1887, the Primghar schools were part of the Summit township school districts. At that time the independent school district of Primghar was organized. On May 31, 1890, a contract was let to H. E. Reeves for a school building forty-five by sixty feet in size, containing four school rooms and superintendent's office, at a cost of five thousand two hundred dollars. On May 16, 1896, a further contract was let to E. Miller to build an addition to this then building of the same size, forty-five by sixty feet, thus making the whole structure sixty by ninety feet in size, and in all containing eight school rooms, with library room used as a recitation room, and superintendent's office, at a cost of three thousand two hundred dollars. A hot air heating plant was installed, at a cost of one thousand one hundred dollars.

BRICK SCHOOL BUILDING.

Primghar was without a railroad for fifteen years, from 1872 to 1887. This of necessity postponed the building of its final modern brick corresponding time and until 1912. On February 5, 1912, action was taken on

petition of citizens. This was followed by the letting of a contract May 27, 1912, to Bosma & Geiger, contractors of Sheldon, for the main building for twenty-three thousand eight hundred dollars, and the heating contract to the Mathey Plumbing Company, of LeMars, to put in a steam plant at a cost of five thousand six hundred and sixty dollars. The building cost thirty-one thousand dollars when completed.

Before the adoption of any plans the board of directors sent J. L. E. Peck, president of the board, W. W. Beach, the architect employed, and Prof. J. J. Billingsly, county superintendent of schools, to visit and inspect other school buildings at some five towns, to enable them to make use of their experience in the adoption of desirable features and to cull out the undesirable.

The building is constructed of vitrified pressed brick from the Sargent's Bluffs yards, and is seventy feet by one hundred in size, with tile brick for backing. Its basement is practically above ground, the whole window being above ground, being practically a three-story building. The basement contains a well equipped and finished gymnasium for athletics, a janitor's office, a manual training room for the boys and domestic science room for the girls. The assembly room will seat one hundred and twenty. It has five grade rooms on the first story, and assembly room, four recitation and two grade rooms, and superintendent's office and lady teacher's office and library room upstairs. Its chimney, coal room and furnace room are all outside the building, to minimize fire danger. It is built in sizes, proportions and facilities about one-fourth larger than present needs, with the idea of development and growth. The city employs eleven teachers, including the superintendent. Its annual expense in administration is ten thousand dollars. Five of Primghar's school superintendents were later county superintendents of this county. Its superintendents since 1872 have been: Harley Day, Stephen Harris, Frank C. Wheaton, H. O. Smith, G. E. Pooler, C. H. Crawford, Miss Belle Cowan, J. J. Billingsly, E. J. English, R. B. Daniels, H. A. Mitchell, W. T. Demar, H. R. Wood, E. E. Richards.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The present board of education and who conducted the erection of the new school building were: J. L. E. Peck, president; Lester T. Aldinger, C. N. Williams, J. G. Geister, William H. Ortman, members of board; William H. Downing, secretary; William Briggs, treasurer; Prof. E. E. Richards, superintendent of schools.

WATER SYSTEM.

Pringhar has one of the very best city water systems. It is pumped from Dry Run and has a fine filter bed in which the wells are sunk. The water is pure and at all times is an enjoyable drink. It is first pumped into a large cement reservoir, forty-six feet square, and then forced through the mains by air pressure. Its fine sewerage system was constructed in 1911.

Sundry other subjects relating to Pringhar, as, for instance, its banks, the court house, jail, county seat, public square and other items, will appear under other heads.

POSTMASTERS.

The following persons have served as postmasters of Pringhar, beginning with the year named: W. C. Green, 1873; A. H. Willits, 1876; Dr. John M. Long, 1882; W. J. Lorschbaugh, 1885; Lew Fairbanks, 1886; George J. Clark, 1888; W. J. Semmons, 1896; Jacob H. Wolf, 1900; Fred B. Wolf, 1908; W. W. Artherholt, 1911.

BUSINESS INTERESTS OF PRIMGHAR IN 1913.

It may be interesting in after years to note in whose hands the business of Pringhar was at the date of compiling this history, hence the subjoined will be given:

Attorneys—O. H. Montzheimer, J. L. E. Peck, W. H. Downing, R. J. Locke and W. W. Artherholt.

Auto garages—Pringhar Auto Company, Ed. Hastings.

Banks—First National Bank, Pringhar Savings Bank.

Blacksmith shops—Ed. Hastings, Ernest Johnson.

Barber shops—M. H. Rooney, Charles Farran.

Clothing and general stores—Williams Brothers, Mast Siemon & Company, Rosecrans & Clements, J. A. King.

Cement workers—J. H. Wadsworth.

Drug stores—Emil Olander, Pringhar Drug Company (Williams Brothers).

Dray lines—W. J. Warner, George Neath, John Bloom, W. S. Court-right, Harry Freclund, Ernest Breyfogle.

Dentist—Dr. C. E. Summy.

Department stores—Williams Brothers.

Elevators (grain)—Farmers' Mutual Co-operative Company, D. C. Peck.

Furniture stores—Joseph Reynoldson, Joseph Metcalf, Williams Brothers.

Feed barns—F. P. Baker.

Grocers—Williams Brothers, Rosecrans & Clements, J. A. King, Mast & Simon.

Hardware—Joseph Reynoldson, Joseph Metcalf, J. S. Nye.

Harness shops—D. R. Carmichael, J. A. Carmichael.

Hotels—Hub Hotel (Pringhar Hotel Company, George Hicks, manager), Pringhar Hotel (Lydia A. Manderville, manager).

Implement dealers—Joseph Reynoldson, Joseph Metcalf.

Jewelers—Emil Olander, Pringhar Drug Company.

Lumber—A. J. Warntjes, Thomas Patton (estate).

Livery—F. P. Baker.

Meat market—Williams Brothers.

Millinery—Thompson & Thompson, Mrs. Martha Squire.

Moving picture shows—J. A. Klink.

Newspapers—*O'Brien County Bell* (J. H. Wolf, editor), *O'Brien County Democrat* (Frank A. Vaughn, editor; later, 1914, Ira Borland).

Opera house—Williams Opera House (Williams Brothers).

Photographs—John Bossert.

Physicians—Dr. H. C. Rogers, Avery & Avery (Dr. Milo Avery and Dr. Roy Avery).

Restaurants—Frank Mackrill, Lydia A. Manderville.

Stock dealers—Martin & Son (William H. Martin and Jabez Martin) and Fred G. Maronda.

Tailors—Carl Strandberg.

Veterinary surgeons—Dr. William Anderson.

Telephone exchange—Pringhar Telephone Company (D. C. Peck, manager).

Pool hall—R. B. Culberson.

Abstracters of titles—Henry Rerick & Son (Henry Rerick and Kenneth Rerick), Frank L. Herrick & Company.

Postmaster—W. W. Artherholt.

Cream stations—George J. North, Williams Brothers.

Variety store—M. L. Bryant.

Auctioneer—W. S. Armstrong.

Real estate dealers—W. J. Bennett, Walter L. Briggs.

CENTER TOWNSHIP.

This township corners at the southwest with Highland, Dale and Summit townships, with a portion of the town of Pringhar in its borders. It was organized as follows: On February 20, 1871, what is now Center and Lincoln were detached from Waterman, and what is now Franklin was detached from Liberty, and the three townships, Center, Lincoln and Franklin, called Center.

It had a population in 1905 of six hundred and twenty-two, exclusive of those residing in Pringhar. Of its early settlement it may be said that John Kane and his family settled in this township in 1871. John and his son Albert filed on eighty each, on the northwest quarter of section 34. A daughter, Olive, married C. H. Murry. John celebrated his golden wedding in Pringhar in 1895. Albert engaged in trade at Pringhar.

One of the pioneers of this county was a settler in Center township. We refer to Claudius Tift, later of Sanborn, but who located in section 2. His brother Robert preceded him to this township. He filed on his land and returned to St. Paul, from which city he came, and brought his family on in the spring of 1872. When Sanborn started he went to that town to reside. He was a soldier in both the Mexican war of 1846 and the civil struggle of 1861-65.

Another early settler in Center township was D. C. Chapman, who located on a part of section 32, but later moved to Pringhar. Daniel Bysom, of section 30, was also a pioneer here. He was many years a prominent citizen and a justice of the peace and still lives here.

Other early comers were Ira Boat, section 6; Minor Blossom, section 8; William H. Brown, section 8; A. L. Creamer, of section 20; S. R. Charlton, section 4; J. P. Blood, section 12; Joel Bresee, section 26; S. C. Coleman, section 6; Charles Chandler, section 32; David Culbertson, section 34; John and Francis Duffy, section 22; R. M. DeWitt, section 30; Oliver Evans, of section 24, came in 1860. John Evans, of section 24, came in early; William Flood, of section 22; Peter Farley, of section 22; J. R. H. Gibbs, section 4; Daniel Griffith, section 8; H. A. Gardner, section 16; D. M. Gano, of section 2; Samuel Alexander and Heman Gibbs, section 34; Mark Hannon, section 10; J. E. Halliday, section 26; J. M. Hicks, on same section; D. Ingraham, early on section 12; Robert Jones, of section 24; Abe Keepher, section 6; Charles Moore, section 6; John Murray, section 22; J. J. Miller, section 26;

A. McClaren, section 30; J. H. Morton, section 32; Fabian Matott, section 10; J. M. Royer, section 20; William Robinson, section 32. David Palen settled on section 12 at a very early date.

Others who were early in the township were Ezra, Charles and Erastus Smith, of section 18. Robert Sanford located on the same section early. He was accidentally killed at Primghar in 1895 by a fall. John Weist settled on section 26; Byron Wooster on section 22; Calvin Waggoner on section 34, and Henry D. Year on section 26. Taking the advice of Horace Greeley to "go west and grow up with the country," E. C. Foskett, in 1870, landed in O'Brien county from Connecticut; he pre-empted the southwest quarter of section 20 in Center township, and later, after proving up, took a homestead claim in section 32. There he reared his family and became widely known as a good citizen.

About the same date—1870—came in J. H. Ober, Hugh Scott, E. Scott and Thomas Scott, on section 28. C. J. Clark settled on the southwest quarter of section 20, in 1870. He came from Linn county, this state, but originally from Ohio. He removed to Medford, Oregon, in 1889.

In 1884 Henry D. Year, Fred and Michael Stueck, Julius Freimark and a few more built St. Emanuel's Lutheran German church in Center township, on section 26, at a cost of one thousand dollars. Two acres of land were donated by Mr. Year and one acre by Mr. Stueck for church and cemetery uses.

Center township has no towns or hamlets within its borders, except the part of Primghar that is located in the southwest corner.

OMEGA TOWNSHIP.

On June 6, 1881, A. P. Powers and eleven others presented a petition to have what is now Omega set apart from Grant. They presented the name of Peterborough. The board said it was too long for a name, and that it would take too much ink to write it, and that the county had started up on a basis of economy and the petition was tucked away. J. L. E. Peck, who was then county auditor and clerk of the board, suggested that as it was the last township they had better call it Omega, the last letter of the Greek alphabet. The petition was at once pulled out and, on motion of J. H. Wolf, then a member of the board, this O'Brien county's youngest township was christened Omega and the first election was held at the house of A. P. Powers on section 32.

Being settled at a time when its territory was included in Center town-

ship, many of its "first settler" notes occur in the last mentioned township. It should, however, be stated that it was settled by a thrifty set of people who have made the prairie wilderness "blossom like the rose" and today, on every section, are well tilled farms and many excellent farm houses and artificial groves that lend enchantment to the rural scenes. To be a possessor of a farm of almost any size in this goodly township is but to be known as a well-to-do man. The population of Omega township in 1905 was five hundred and fifty-seven. This was exclusive of the village of Moneta, which had at that date a population of fifty-nine, but has double that now. Land sells at from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre.

VILLAGE OF MONETA.

This is the only town or hamlet in the township and was platted on sections 13 and 24, township 96, range 39, on May 10, 1901, by C. H. Colby. The first house on the plat was the lumber office of C. H. Colby, erected in 1901, in which there was also kept a small general store and a boarding hall, by F. H. Howard. The second building was the railroad depot. The first general merchandise store, proper, was that of F. H. Howard; the first hardware was put in by E. E. Dodge; the first meat market was by F. H. Howard; the first grain dealers was the firm of Haas & Ruwe.

The business interests of today are in the hands of the following persons: Bank, The Moneta Savings; blacksmith, John Lumbach; auto-garage, Louis Ruwe; restaurant, Mrs. H. S. Moeller; meat market, Lawrence Mosen; lumber, Flote Lumber Company; depot agent, I. E. Crane; grain dealers, Farmers Elevator Company, C. H. Betts; general merchandise, E. T. Dunlap, Byers Brothers; pool hall, Louis Ruwe; hardware implements, Jepsen Brothers; cream station, Fairmont Creamery Company and Hanford Produce Company.

INCORPORATION HISTORY.

Moneta was legally incorporated in 1902, with A. C. Wede, mayor. He was succeeded by Henry Ruwe and the present mayor, J. W. Jepsen. The officers of 1913 are: J. W. Jepsen, mayor; Charles Burlet, clerk-treasurer; Louis Ruwe, marshal; Henry Jepsen, L. F. Anderson, Henry Killmer and Martin Martinsen, councilmen.

The postoffice was established here in 1901 and the postmasters have been F. H. Howard, Hugo Riessen, Frank Hemmingway, P. F. Riessen and J. W. Jepsen. It is a fourth class office and has one rural delivery of twenty-four miles length.

The town has had several fires, including that of March 8, 1910, when the lumber yard, a general store belonging to P. A. Riessen, the bank, a restaurant and other buildings were consumed by the flames. This portion of the town was all soon rebuilt. In 1911 the grain elevator was burned and in 1913 an oil house of Ed. Dunlap's was burned.

The Methodist Episcopal church is the only one in town; it was erected in 1903 at a cost of about two thousand five hundred dollars.

BAKER TOWNSHIP.

Baker township was organized as follows: On April 1, 1872, what is now Baker and Caledonia were set apart from Liberty and called Sutter. The first election was held at the house of George Sutter on section 14, in the township of what is now Baker. On October 4, 1873, a petition was filed before the board of supervisors to have this name of Sutter changed to Eldorado. It was passed over, first to the January meeting for 1874 and then to the April meeting for 1874. An election in the township was called to determine the question in the meantime, which election determined that it should be called Baker, and which was confirmed by the board, April 6, 1874. The township was named for General N. B. Baker, who about this same year was taking an active part in securing and distributing the relief voted by the Legislature, and contributed by relief committees, as otherwise stated.

The census of 1910 gives this township a population of six hundred and thirty-five. This is a township without a town or village and is on the west line of the county, second from the south line of the county. It was here that George Sutter made the first settlement. He came in the early spring of 1870 and built quite an extensive house for a homesteader. His son, S. G. Sutter, came in 1869 and secured the claims for the family. George Sutter had several grown-up sons who became residents of the county. He located on the southwest quarter of section 14; D. Sutter, on the northeast quarter of section 10, and Samuel, on the northeast of section 2. The father died in the nineties; S. G. removed to Missouri and Austin to Storm Lake.

John Wagner made the next settlement in the township. He was

also accompanied by his brothers, George and Wesley Wagner. They came early in the summer of 1870 and built a sod house on the center of section 22, so that it would stand equally on each quarter section, thus enabling each to hold down his claim. Their cousin, named Wilson, had the fourth quarter of the same section. John Wagner became a prominent man in this county.

In the summer of 1871 came in Byron and James Donovan, brothers, from Iowa county, Iowa, where the Wagners came from. Byron located lands on section 20 and James on the southwest of section 12. A. J. Donovan, another brother, came to the township in 1872, settling on the southeast quarter of section 12. Besides having a residence on his claim he also had a store. This general store was known all over the western part of O'Brien county and carried on a thriving trade until the starting of Sheldon. The mother of these boys and a sister, Lottie, came on soon and took each a claim, in Baker township, but sold them without making final proof and removed to Sheldon.

John Wood and his brother, Robert, came to Baker township in 1871. John settled on the northwest quarter of section 20, while Robert located on the south half of the same section. Robert came in first, in June, in time to do some breaking. John arrived in November and batched with the Wagner boys, at their sod shack, until he built his own claim shanty. He was an early justice of the peace and a good all-around citizen. Later he removed to Clayton county, Iowa. Robert also sold and removed to a point somewhere in eastern Iowa.

Among other pioneer settlers may be recalled Levi Allison, who removed to Lyon county, Iowa. D. W. Wellman located on the northwest quarter of section 12, in the spring of 1872, although he had made his selection the previous autumn. He was from Madison county, this state, and was a justice of the peace for many years, and the Sheldon lawyers had many tilts before his court.

Enoch Philly came in from Madison county, Iowa, in 1870, and located on the northwest quarter of section 10, in Baker township. He was then a single man. He hauled lumber from Marens and first built the usual claim shack, in which he lived until Sheldon was started, when he purchased lumber from H. C. Lane and erected a good dwelling. In 1890 he donated land on the northwest quarter of his section for a Methodist Episcopal church, which building was erected that year. Its spires stands as a monument to his generosity and liking for religious things.

DALE TOWNSHIP.

On June 8, 1880, on petition of A. J. Carman and eleven others, Dale township was set apart from Highland and the first election held in the school house, on the corner of section 6, and A. J. Carman, Louis Woodman and H. A. Cramer made organization judges of the election.

In the census reports, published in 1910, Dale township was given five hundred and eighty-seven population. This is one of the central subdivisions of the county. A portion of the town of Primghar is situated in the northeast part of its territory. Throughout this six-mile square tract of fertile land one today sees many beautiful farm houses and excellent general improvements. The soil, in common with all the county, is the richest in all the great Northwestern country. All grains, grasses and corn grow in great abundance, and crop failures are seldom, if ever, known. Lands here range from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and ninety dollars per acre and are steadily increasing. This price would not obtain unless the soil could be annually counted upon to bring in wonderful yields, which it does.

The numerous schools of the township have been noted in the chapter on education, hence need not here be repeated. The settlement here was made by excellent men and women who have reared splendid families to do their family name honor. To be a land owner in this goodly township, in this, the thirteenth year of the twentieth century, is indeed to be an independent American citizen. From the numerous homesteaders and squatters of forty years ago, the land owners are today well-to-do farmers, with plenty and to spare.

SETTLEMENT.

This township was not settled to any extent until about the eighties, when several families came in, including O. P. Tjossem and L. Goodmanson, of Marshall county. Severt L. Tow, A. L. Tow, O. K. Tow and H. Graden, of Benton county, with J. P. Tjossem, from Ida county, and they purchased all of section 26, in Dale township. They located on these lands in the spring of 1884, and at once began improvements after a modern style. O. P. Tjossem, having all confidence in the country, purchased the southwest quarter of section 24, also. S. L. Tow also added to his original farm by purchasing an eighty in section 35. Hardin county, Iowa, was represented here by C. Thompson, who bought the southeast quarter

of section 35, in the autumn of 1884, commencing his improvements in the spring of 1885. Iver Goodmanson, a cousin of the last named, purchased an eighty in the same section, in August the same year.

Another settler in this vicinity was Mr. Crosbie, of Cedar county, Iowa, formerly of Glasgow, Scotland. His land, however, was situated in Union township, on section 24. He was a minister in the Friends Society.

Dale township was largely what was known as a deeded township, which meant that most of its land went to title direct to a purchaser, from the United States, and not by homestead. There were but few early homesteads, though later on there were many squatter homesteads. In that chapter those items will appear. In Chapter III, on "Where the People Came From," we made mention of the Scottish settlement in 1881, by Hector Cowan, Sr., Alexander Scott and other Scotchmen. His son, Hector Cowan, Jr., was for many years a large section farmer in this township. William P. Davis, in 1881, opened up a large farm on section 36 and later became a banker in Sutherland. The three families of John M. Thayer and his two sons, Hiram C. and Herbert E. Thayer, were among the earliest settlers, the latter becoming a land agent and abstractor of titles in Primghar. Archibald Shearer, father of Arthur and Douglass Shearer, settled on section 4, where these sons still reside with their mother. One daughter, Miss Ethel Shearer, is the present primary instructor in the Primghar schools. Miss Sarah is in Twin Falls. Lewis Woodman, on section 6, still resides on same. The succeeding settlers, in the hundreds, are too numerous to give in detail.

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP.

On February 20, 1871, what is now Highland township was detached from Waterman, and what is now Dale detached from Liberty, and the two townships, Highland and Dale, called Highland. In 1881 Dale was detached from Highland.

The township of Highland had, according to the federal census of 1910, a population of seven hundred. It is well developed with the richest of farms and the best type of buildings in the county. Its people are both prosperous and happy. Land is steadily advancing in price and within a few short years there will be none at less than two hundred dollars per acre. There are no towns except Gaza, which is located on section 28. It is a station point of no little importance on the Sioux Falls branch

of the Illinois Central railroad, and was started soon after that road was constructed through the county. It derives its name from that other Gaza, situated upon the waters of the Mediterranean sea, in the Holy Land, and which is spoken of in the Bible. The town now under consideration was platted as "Woodstock," April 18, 1888, on section 28, township 95, range 40, by the Cherokee and Western Town Lot Company, but when it was found that Iowa contained another town by that name it was changed to Gaza.

The first store building and general stock of goods here was the property of H. Ehlers, who began operations in 1887. He was also first postmaster. A Congregational church was erected at Gaza in 1896 and had for its pastor a lady, Mrs. A. L. B. Nutting.

Highland township was one of the townships within the railroad limits where the homestead law permitted, in many cases, only eighty acres, but this resulted in more families and more people! Several very large families grew up in Highland. Among them was an Englishman, known as "Uncle" George Johnson, on section 32. One son, William W. Johnson, was for many years a member of the board of supervisors and is now a banker in Sanborn. Another son, Robert W. Johnson, still resides on section 18. Others of this large family are widely scattered. The family of William King, on section 9, was still larger and many are still in the county, down through the generations. Anderson M. Cleghorn was an old soldier and old homesteader and raised another large family, Mrs. William Smith, of Dale, being one; the widow, Mary Cleghorn, and W. S., a son, being still in the county. Mr. Cleghorn was an early-day veterinary of the self-made school. Horatio Stanley, on section 2, from Connecticut, was the father of Mrs. Daniel Byson, Mrs. F. P. Jenks, Wakeman Stanley, deceased, and Mrs. Lyman, and lived to be ninety-two years old. George W. Doyle, on section 12, raised seven children, John F. Doyle, in Primghar, Mrs. George McDowell, at Archer, and others scattered. Mr. and Mrs. James T. Dewey reside in Primghar, the parents of Mrs. Dr. H. C. Rogers. Mr. and Mrs. William Welch, on section 12, live in Primghar and are the parents of sons still in the county. Melchoir Husquin, on section 6, was an eccentric bachelor and a Belgian. Charles F. Albright and his wife, Mrs. Adaline C. Albright, homesteaded the quarter adjoining Primghar, on section 6. He was a member of the board of supervisors, built the first and other buildings in town, was at one time mayor, and was the father of Mrs. Esther Winterble and Roy Albright, dentist. Mrs. Adaline C. Albright will long

be remembered for the hundreds of sick she cared for, among the early settlers and later citizens, not simply in one neighborhood, but in many throughout the county. Her monument lies not in mere mention herein but in the hearts of the scores of families as the Good Samaritan and mother to the sick and afflicted. Russel Salisbury, on section 30, raised two sons, Norman and Herbert, stock shippers at Gaza for many years. Mrs. Catherine Debricka, on section 14, was the mother of Mrs. James Brosh and Frank Dobricka, who also homesteaded on section 14. Jacob Klema was the father of Thomas and Frank Klema, residing at Sutherland. Emanuel Kindig was a member of the board from this township in the first uplifts of affairs. Frank D. Mitchell, county recorder four years, homesteaded on section 2. William A. and Mrs. Henrietta (Wheeler) Aere on section 6. Mrs. Aere was perhaps the only member of a school board, which place she held for three years at Primghar. She was a woman who had seen some of the best situations and opportunities in life and had experienced some of the hardest of homestead trials. Mr. and Mrs. William E. Baldwin, on section 34, took much part in public early matters. Ed. C. Dean, the first resident of Primghar, still resides there. James Fraser was the father of another large family. Lem C. Green, brother of Clark Green, on section 26, and their father, McAllen Green, county recorder, both settled on section 26. George Hakeman and William W. Johnson, both members of the board, each settled on section 20.

GAZA'S PRESENT BUSINESS AND OTHER INTERESTS.

In the fall of 1913 the following interests were maintained at Gaza: There are two general merchandise stores, one by Harry Gerner and one conducted by Mr. Grending. There is also a good blacksmith shop and implement house, by Mr. Smith; a garage by Hans Peterson; Bruce Edgerton Co. operate a first-class lumber yard and buy grain of all kinds; the banking business is carried on by the Farmers Savings Bank, organized in 1910, with ten thousand dollars capital, and now has a surplus of two thousand five hundred dollars. They own their own banking building. The present officers are Frank Martin, president; Henry Lake, vice-president; C. F. Reifsteck, cashier. The above with Charles Schnoor constitute the board of directors. It was in this township, on section 7, where Paine's store was conducted from 1870 to 1872, before Primghar was started.

POLITICAL INCIDENT IN HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP.

Prior to the organization of Dale township, in 1880, it belonged to and was a part of Highland. Highland at this time was well settled. The Dale end of the big township only had about one-third of the voters. Each of these old settled townships desired to retain one of these new or raw townships as part of itself as long as possible, in order to collect from that township the school and road taxes from the raw township. The old homesteaders of Highland township resented these doings of what was termed that little wild upstart of a township. The campaign was on for county officers, with a hot fight, two sets of candidates being out for each office. The fight was quite evenly balanced over the county, it being conceded that the crowd that could control Highland would win in the county. At the time of the calling of the township caucus Dale township was only half organized. The record proceedings to organize a township occupied about four months, and this was in the midst of organization. Everybody in both ends of the township was on hand. This peculiar, long-headed scheme was carried out. The voters and candidates were all on hand. One bunch had studied it out thus. They could see that the Highland end of the township could control. One of the candidates on that side simply arose and made objection to Dale township participating, shooting it into Dale that they had seceded. The human nature of this, as can be seen, was to line up the two ends of the township against each other on any question that would arise. This clannishness of the two divisions thus held together, and they of Highland naturally went to the bunch of candidates who appeared to be espousing their cause. The bunch of candidates on that side, however, saw to it that they only went so far as to object and raise the question, but not to insist on it, as that would or might bring Dale out with a new Dale caucus, which was desired to be prevented. The voters en masse of either township never fully realized that the whole scheme had been studied up during the afternoon before. This knowledge of human nature was taken advantage of. It was a political maneuver that could only be worked once, but that was enough. It was a hit growing out of township organization.

GRANT TOWNSHIP.

Grant township was originally a part of old Waterman township, but later in the history of the county was set off as a separate township. On January 3, 1870, the south tier of sections of what is now Grant was set

apart from Waterman to Grant, except the southeast quarter of section 36 of same. On January 21, 1871, the southeast quarter of section 36 of same was likewise set back to Grant.

In 1910 the population of Grant township was placed at six hundred and thirty. Land was rated and actually sold at from one hundred to one hundred and ninety dollars per acre.

This sub-division of the county is second from the southern line of O'Brien county and is on the extreme eastern line of townships.

Waterman river, or creek, courses through the territory from north to south. To be the possessor of a farm within this six-mile-square tract of fertile land is indeed to be fortunate in life. To appreciate the rural scenes here, one must needs travel through the country in midsummer when the waving grain and dark green corn roll in all their shadowy billows.

Just who had the honor of being the first settler in what is now Grant township, no one seems to be able to determine. It is perhaps sufficient to say that Alfred B. Husted and family resided on section 4, on his claim, which was entered in 1868, at which time he said there were eleven voters in the township. Mr. Husted came from Sac county, Iowa, and in 1897 was one of the four first settlers in the county, then residing here. He entered the land in 1868 and the spring following moved his effects here. At first he worked at Old O'Brien for Major Inman and built his own house on his land at odd spells when work for others was slack. He was a carpenter by trade—the first in this county. He it was who built the school house at Sanborn and also was employed on the Teabont store building of the same town.

In the spring of 1869 came to Grant township D. B. Harmon, locating on section 36, his claim being on the southeast quarter. He came from Wisconsin, from which state he had written to several points in Iowa to learn about cheap lands and homesteads. A letter from Ft. Dodge set him thinking about O'Brien county, and hence he left home and went to Ft. Dodge, having to walk from Iowa Falls, the end of the railroad, a distance of forty miles to Webster City, where he chanced to get a ride with a farmer the balance of the journey. He came on to Old O'Brien to work under a promise of receiving four dollars per day, but he never realized that amount. On the way up he met Horace Gilbert, William Wager and others. Having decided to set his stakes here in Grant township, he sent back for his wife, who arrived in Fort Dodge in the latter part of May. He purchased oxen and, borrowing a wagon, brought his effects on up as far

as he could get. The roads were "out of sight" in mud and water. While crossing "Hell Slough," the water up to his wagon box, his ox-yoke broke in two, in the middle of the slough. He was forced to carry his young wife to the shore on his shoulders, after which he carried the wagon and provisions over, piece by piece. He then mended his yoke and went forward. That summer he lived in a tent and in the fall built a sod shanty. The first season he broke out twenty acres and put it into crop the next year. He had broken the sod too deep and the rainy year that followed caused him a slim yield in wheat—the sod was very tough. His wife, who had just left her schoolroom duties and was not used to the duties of a housewife, found trying times in the new prairie country. Adjoining this farm was the claim of William Wager, who also settled in this township in 1869. He was from Canada and, like Mr. Harmon, had many early-day discouragements, but finally came off ahead and held much valuable real estate. Another 1869 settler was Mr. McBath. Later than these was Frank Martin, of section 30. He came to Peterson in 1871 and to Grant township in 1872. In 1870 came J. S. Brosh, who filed and settled on the west half of the southeast quarter of section 14 in Highland township. His wife died from the effects of a stroke of lightning.

George W. Jones, a soldier from New York state, settled here in September, 1870, on section 6, where he took up a homestead and proved up on the same, or rather his wife did, for he died about 1875, after which the widow married R. Powers and, while they still retain the farm in the family, Mr. and Mrs. Powers reside in Primghar. Some time before 1870 came John Lowder, also William Wilson, who later moved to the far West. These men became sick of the country' in grasshopper days. Charles Stearns was another pioneer in Grant township; he lived to the south of the Jones homestead, on land taken up way back in the seventies.

Mrs. Jones-Powers, above mentioned, relates how her first husband had to draw provisions from Cherokee, and wood from down on the Waterman, in the southeast part of this county. Later the timber was all cut off and settlers were compelled to burn prairie hay during the long winter months. The Germans did not begin to come into this township until the eighties, when they swarmed in in large numbers.

Among the old settlers in Grant we should also mention N. L. Chesley, who raised a large family, among them being Henry Chesley, for many years postmaster in Sutherland. O. A. Sutton was an old soldier and homesteader on section 14. Samuel J. Jordan still resides on section 30 and is one of the first and one of the half dozen largest farmers in the

county. We have already noted him among Sutherland's bankers. E. J. Frush, Byram Eckman, James Magee are others who raised large families there. William Slack homesteaded on section 6, in 1869, but died in 1874. His widow, Mrs. Lucy Slack, was among those chiefly interested in the erection of the Covey church and other early enterprises. Her son, Charles S. Slack, resided with her on the claim until her death. Major Chester W. Inman was an old soldier, ex-county treasurer, and opened up a seven-hundred-acre farm, and built one of the first of the large residences. He was later killed in an altercation over a boundary line. Uncle Don C. Berray was an old homesteader, a very eccentric character and will be long remembered for his fun and geniality. He left a large family.

Other settlers of an early date were the Inman Brothers, southeast of the Jones homestead settlement. They arrived about 1869-70 and remained many years. One of the brothers was known as Major Inman and had served in the Civil War.

Of schools, churches and other items of interest in Grant township, the reader is referred to chapters on such general topics elsewhere in this volume.

THE MILWAUKEE RAILROAD DID ONE SQUARE DEAL.

We often hear the railroads severely upbraided for getting their railroad land grants and handling them greedily and not to the interest of the people. Desiring to give each side of the varied questions that have arisen in the county, as historic facts, notwithstanding the editors hereof have participated on one side or the other of most questions for thirty years, we wish to call attention to one bunch of railroad lands patented to the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad by John H. Gear, governor of Iowa, by patent dated April 26, 1880. This patent covered twelve thousand two hundred and four and seventy-eight hundredths acres, covering ten thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight acres in Grant township and nine hundred and six acres in Waterman and a small tract, each in Hartley, Omega and Highland townships.

The Milwaukee road built from McGregor west through O'Brien county, under the land grant by Congress of May 12, 1864, hence earned divers lands right up and into O'Brien county, in fact earned the above lands before it struck what have been called the "overlapping" lands in dispute, as detailed elsewhere. Lands at the time were worth, in the county, about five dollars per acre. This road at once put these lands all on the market by public announcement at five dollars per acre, with the stated inducement

to the purchaser to deduct the sum of two dollars and fifty cents per acre for each acre broken up for cultivation within two years, and as further stated by the company as an inducement to get the country opened up and improved, and with the idea that more settlers and more farming would produce more shipping. This was practically equal to purchasing from the government. Practically every purchaser took advantage of this inducement. The reader must pass judgment.

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP.

On January 3, 1878, on petition of Leonard Hill and twelve others, what is now Caledonia township was set off from Baker and called Caledonia, and the first election ordered held in the school house, but as there was only one school house in the township there was no trouble.

In 1910 the United States census reports gave this township a population of eight hundred and nine. It is in many ways the richest, best improved part of O'Brien county. It is, and always has been, largely held by thrifty, Americanized Germans, who know no such word as fail. For them work—hard work—is but play. Men, women and children all join in doing useful labor and in this manner they thrive in health and wealth getting. The scores of beautiful farms, with tall groves set up by pioneer hands, grace the entire territory. The roads and fences and general building improvements bespeak of naught but value and contentment, while prosperity is found on every hand. They are both a religious and educational people—believe in good churches and schools and have provided them for the rising young about them. They believe in teaching and speaking both the German and English language.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

Many a fond memory clusters around the farms where the pioneer first settled. The land the first settlers claimed as their own has come to be almost holy ground to the children of these pioneers. The first person to effect a settlement in Caledonia township was H. B. Robeson, who came early in 1871. The township was not of that class of land that could then be settled upon as government land could. It had to be purchased of the individual owners. After spending a few years there pioneer Robeson retired to Marcus and became an honored citizen of that thriving town in Cherokee county.

The next actual settler, after Robeson, was John Schwelbach, who

came to this township in 1872. Thomas Barry soon followed in the march of enterprising settlers. This is a decided German settlement; almost to a man they are of this class. Among other pioneers of this goodly township may be recalled these: Leonard Hill, of section 7, who now resides in Granville, Sioux county, this state; Messrs Upham and Arnold, of section 12, removed from the county many years since; H. F. Kluender came in the spring of 1881, from Cook county, Illinois, and after a time settled on his present farm, a hundred and twenty acres in the northeast quarter of section 18, where he has made excellent improvements and has a valuable property enjoyed by himself and his estimable family. Another still living in the township is Fred Boss, of section 25; Henry Hoermann was a pioneer and removed to Kansas; John Stamer, of section 5, and William Steinberg, of that section, settled here, but are now numbered among the dead; Nic Malget, of the northeast quarter of section 7, is still an honored resident of the township; also Henry Richter, of section 14; W. O. Boyd was another very early pioneer to this part of the county; he owned at one time all of section 22, but later sold out and retired at Ames, Iowa, where he still lives.

What was named Shabbona postoffice was established on the southwest quarter of section 2, in 1888, six years after the building of the railroad through the township. The postmaster was Theodore Brum, but short was his term of office, for the same was abandoned after two weeks' trial. It had been proposed to establish a town and sidetrack station at that point but it never materialized. The Chicago & Northwestern railroad runs through the southern portion of the upper tier of sections of this township, going almost on a straight line till the center of section 6 is reached, when it bears to the northwest before entering Sioux county. Land sells in this township from one hundred fifty to two hundred dollars per acre and is really not in the market, for all the land owners are content with the prosperity which now surrounds them.

Among the citizens of this township who have held county office should be mentioned such men as Henry Herman and William Klein, who were members of the county board of supervisors many years ago. Klein was a farmer and preached sometimes; he now lives in Chicago.

GERMANTOWN.

This is the only village or hamlet within this township. It is situated on the corners of sections 14, 15, 22 and 23, in township 94, range 42, and was platted June 10, 1901, by Edward D. Beerman.

A postoffice was here established about 1892, but when the introduction of rural free mail delivery came in it was abandoned and mail has since been brought daily by the carriers on the route from Paullina. The first events were the establishment of a blacksmith shop, by John Berkley; the first store of merchandise in Germantown was opened by L. F. Magers in 1887-88. He sold out to Charles Nichols after about five years. A creamery was operated in connection with the general store. Nichols let it run down and eight farmers bought out his creamery, as well as the store. At this date (1913) J. C. Lange has the store. The village blacksmith is now Ben Devrier, who also sells farm implements. The creamery company was recently re-organized and changed to that of a farmers' stock company. They run wagons, five in number, to the surrounding country, collect cream and make butter. The only other industry is that represented by Fred Fiddelke as carpenter and contractor.

Township officials here have ever been of the best type of citizens. The first officers were elected October 8, 1878, and were as follows: Jacob Diederick, Thomas Barry and H. B. Robeson, trustees; Newall Upham, justice of the peace; George Arnold and Charles Meyer, constables; Henry Hoermann, road supervisor; F. L. Jenkins, clerk; Leonard Hill, assessor. At the present time the trustees are William Hellmann, Fred Pauling and Emil Gebert. For the last twelve years there has been no demand for the offices of constable and justice of the peace, hence none have ever qualified, though regularly elected. This speaks of peace and harmony among the inhabitants of the township of Caledonia. When, for any reason, a peace officer is needed, the sheriff is called upon: Ed. Dobbertin is present assessor; the township clerk is H. F. Kluender, who has held the position since 1901. There are now about one hundred and eighty voters in the township, and it is said that only one American lives in the precinct and he is a renter in the south part of the township. Very few in the township but have been naturalized. One here finds the best class of foreigners, who are practical, religious, law-abiding people of great worth to a county, in the fact that they produce and at the same time expend for the comforts and luxuries of life, yet do not destroy and tear down as do some classes of people from the Old World. There are now several large farm houses in this township that have been provided with modern electric lighting plants for house and barns as well. That they believe in education, it should be stated that in addition to the large parochial school at German-town, they maintain nine (the Iowa regulation number) district schools in the township.



A FAIR TYPE OF THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS THAT HAVE MADE IOWA FAMOUS

A history of the Evangelical Lutheran church—the church of the entire township—will be seen in the church chapter elsewhere in this volume, and should be read, as it is certainly a part and parcel of the history of Caledonia township. And with this are given the facts concerning the school that is connected with the church.

UNION TOWNSHIP, PAULLINA AND VICINITY.

By David Algyer.

The people of Union township, Paullina, and the surrounding country are a splendid mixture of American-born citizens, Germans, Scandinavians, Scotch, Irish, with a sprinkling of Bohemian, and they constitute a sturdy, thrifty, self-respecting citizenship, of which any community might well feel proud.

All of the above is proven by the splendid farms, neat, commodious dwelling houses, spacious barns, always well filled with the best products of earth, that adorn this beautiful prairie country, giving it the true appearance of wealth and substantial prosperity and financial responsibility found only where the soil is of the best quality.

In speaking of the improvements of Union township, it must not be overlooked that O. S. West, the "Duroc" hog raiser, has the best farm house in the state of Iowa, at least it was so conceded in *Wallace's Farmer* of Des Moines, Iowa, a few years ago. It cost many thousands of dollars, and is truly a monument to the industry, not only of Mr. West, the owner, but of the country generally, and it will be admitted by any visitor of this community that the farmers of Union township are as well housed and have barns for their products and stock second to no farm improvements anywhere on earth.

With the intermarriage of these peoples we have and will have a citizenship surpassed, in intelligence, sobriety and industry by none.

ORGANIZATION OF UNION TOWNSHIP.

On the 6th day of September, 1880, on petition of B. F. Rozell and eleven other citizens, filed with J. L. E. Peck, then county auditor of O'Brien county, and by him presented to the board of supervisors of said county, Union township was set off from Liberty township and organized into what has since been known as Union township. Prior to this time Liberty, including Union, had been set off from Waterman township.

Still prior, in 1860, the whole county had been called "O'Brien Township," and governed as one township.

A commission was issued by J. L. E. Peck, county auditor, to B. F. Rozell, B. C. Howard and John Warnke, on the 11th day of September, 1880. They held the first election of officers for Union township at the residence of B. F. Rozell, on section 8, township 94, range 41, on the 2d day of November, 1880, at which election the following named persons were elected as officers of said township: B. F. Rozell, John Warnke and Reuben W. Young, trustees; E. A. Howard, township clerk; Carl Levernz, assessor; B. C. Howard and William Levee, justices of the peace; Henry Johnson and D. N. Latham, constables. Thus was the machinery of the government of Union township started, so many years ago, and the writer begs to add that the affairs of the township have always been handled by the best, wisest and most prudent citizens of the township, and he challenges any township in this county to make a better showing of prosperity of all public enterprises than Union township.

COMING OF THE CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD.

During the years 1881 and 1882 the Chicago & Northwestern Railway, one of the great arteries of commerce, constructed its line through O'Brien county and consequently through Union township, thus opening a great gateway for the products of this magnificent farming country, making it possible for the farmers to lay their products down in Chicago, within a few hours from time of delivery to the railway, and from a value of four dollars per acre the land around Paullina has advanced to one hundred and fifty dollars and even to two hundred dollars per acre, owing to the quality of the soil, improvements and facility of disposing of the farm products. The advance has been like the gaining of riches by "Sinbad the Sailor," and the end is not yet—indeed the people realize that our farming industry is like all else; we are in but the infancy of development, and the wisest cannot foretell future developments or the future possibilities of Union township and the surrounding country.

PLATTING OF TOWN OF PAULLINA.

The Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company, having established their line of railway through Union township, on the 20th day of January, 1882, the Western Town Lot Company filed the original plat of the town of

Paullina and began to sell lots for business and residence purposes. This plat was indeed a novel and, I might add, beautiful design for a town, showing an avenue, named Garfield avenue, one hundred feet in width, encircling the town, making a truly beautiful driveway all around the town. For some reason, not generally known, the Western Town Lot Company had this Garfield avenue, with the consent of the town council of said town, vacated several years after the founding of the town, thus depriving the town of a most charming street.

Immediately after the town was platted, lots were sold and the town began to grow in a good, healthy, substantial manner, and soon acquired the name of "The Gem of the Prairie," which was and is a fitting name.

There have been several additions platted to the town, as follows: Metcalf's addition, platted and filed January 9, 1886, by John and Thomas Metcalf; Harker & Greene's addition, platted and filed September 3, 1885, by William Harker and J. L. Greene, of Sanborn, Iowa; re-plat of outlots by the Western Town Lot Company, filed December 13, 1890, December 30, 1890, October 26, 1905, and July 8, 1911; Dealy & Harris' addition, filed for record in July, 1909.

The prosperity of the town of Paullina has been owing to her early citizenship, to men who laid the foundation of a good town in sound morality, in a spirit of fairness, generosity and correct business dealings, so that whenever farmers came to the town they were assured of fair dealing and just returns for their products. Among the men who first came to Paullina, and those who have since assisted in making the town what it is today, are the following: John Baumann, George Hakeman, W. W. Johnson, J. A. Warner, D. H. Adkins, L. Wollenberg, John V. Adkins, John Metcalf, C. C. Smith, Dr. C. S. Paul, Hubert Sprague, Thomas Metcalf, O. D. Hamstreet, J. D. Simpson, O. M. Smith, A. P. Jacobs, John Cowan, Sr., and many other enterprising citizens that space forbids to mention. The history of the newspapers of Paullina will be found in the chapter devoted exclusively to this topic.

ORGANIZATION OF TOWN OF PAULLINA.

On the 23d day of August, 1883, A. Hanson and twenty-seven other citizens, by their attorney, O. D. Hamstreet, who, by the way, was the first attorney of the town of Paullina, filed their petition in the circuit court of the state of Iowa in and for O'Brien county, before J. R. Zuver, judge, asking that a commission be issued to commissioners and that the town of

Paullina be incorporated. After hearing said petition, said court, on the 27th day of September, 1883, appointed the following citizens of said town as commissioners: A. Hanson, C. C. Smith, C. S. Paul, J. M. Baumann and O. D. Hamstreet, to conduct the proceedings of incorporation and election.

A notice of election was ordered published for four consecutive weeks in the *Paullina Times*. The election on the question "Shall the town of Paullina, Iowa, become incorporated, under the laws of the state of Iowa," was submitted to the electors as by law provided on the 30th day of October, 1883. Election was held as per notice given, which resulted as follows: There were fifty-one votes cast, of which forty-four were for incorporation and seven votes cast against incorporation, whereupon said commissioners declared that the proposition was carried.

Thereupon said commissioners proceeded to call an election of officers for said town, and after due notice, as by law provided, an election for the 23d day of November, 1883, was held, and the following named citizens were duly elected, as the first officers of the incorporated town of Paullina, to-wit: I. L. Rerick, mayor; Stephen Harris, recorder; and A. Hanson, John Baumann, George Veeder, J. P. Bossert, W. W. Johnson and D. H. Adkins, as the first council of the town.

All of said officers took the oath of office on the 27th day of November, 1883, and were duly installed in their several offices, and the wheels of the city government of Paullina began to turn and on the 30th day of November, 1883, at a special meeting of the council, several ordinances were passed for the guidance and government of Paullina.

The first great public utility of the town was its water works. At an election called by the council as by law provided, on the 13th day of June, 1891, to determine the question: "Shall the town of Paullina erect a system of water works and bond the town therefor," there were eighty-one ballots cast, seventy-two votes being for said proposition and nine against the same.

The council then proceeded to carry out the expressed wishes of the people and commenced the erection of a system of water works that has always furnished the town with an abundance of the best of water, and the system being worth not less than twenty-five thousand dollars today, showing how wisely and well the affairs of the town have been administered and proving that municipal ownership is a grand success when properly managed by intelligent officers.

Paullina also has a system of electric light, twenty-four hours service every day and seven days every week, valued at not less than twenty-five thou-

sand dollars and for all practical purposes is as good as any system in any city in the United States, and is also an example of what a municipal-owned light system can be made by prudent, conservative, but determined action.

Paullina also has a system of telephone, operated twenty-four hours every day, seven days every week, and has connection with all parts of the county, and long distance service that is very satisfactory.

It must not be overlooked that the town of Paullina has an exceptional manager of its public utilities in the person of Wells Sutherland, who is verily an expert workman in electricity and the control of machinery of every character and who is a tireless worker for the interests of the town, and when anything is necessary to be done, he illustrates the "Johnny on the Spot" idea of prompt and efficient work.

Besides the water works and electric plants, the town owns its hall, used for keeping fire apparatus, general meetings and elections, owing to its central location. This property is, at a low estimate, worth two thousand five hundred dollars.

About seventeen years ago Fred G. Frothingham made a bequest of the sum of two thousand dollars to Paullina for library purposes, and this sum soon accumulated, being at interest in the Bank of Paullina, and the town council called an election for the purpose of voting on the proposition: "Shall the town of Paullina purchase the necessary real estate for a site for a public library?" There were seventy ballots cast, of which fifty-five were for the proposition and fifteen against.

The council then purchased the present site of the library on the east side of Main street. The citizens of Paullina then made donations of about five thousand dollars in cash, and the council commenced the erection of a building composed of cement blocks, which, when completed, made a very commodious library building, giving good rooms for library purposes and an auditorium that seats six hundred people, the floor of which is used for gymnasium purposes and basket ball, etc.

When completed, Governor Albert B. Cummins made the dedication address and the same was one of his masterly efforts. The library can now boast of at least one thousand dollars worth of books, and all the appliances of a modern public library, also belonging to the town of Paullina, and valued at ten thousand dollars. The people enjoy all the good reading advantages of a large city library, so far as books are concerned, without the expensive and rare and reference books and paraphernalia of the city library. The mayor appointed the following named citizens, first trustees, of the "Froth-

ingham Free Public Library," as our library is named: C. C. Cannon, E. Lustfeld, John E. Ullman, John Cowan, Sr., George W. Harris, G. A. Lage, A. Bock, George Raw and B. J. Maytum. The above appointed trustees qualified by taking the oath of office and organized their board by electing Ernest Lustfeld president, and John E. Ullman, secretary, and by lot determined the length of office of trustees, three to go out in three years, three in six years and three in nine years, and all members of the board to be appointed by the mayor of the town.

ORGANIZATION OF THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PAULLINA.

Pursuant to notice given by the secretary of Union township school district, the qualified electors of that part of Union township, comprising sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 met on the 3d day of July, 1883, at the depot of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company, in Paullina, and voted on the question: "Shall said above described territory be organized into an independent school district, known as independent school district of Paullina." A very large majority of the votes cast being in favor of the organization, it was declared adopted by the people, and notice according to law was given for an election of officers of the newly erected district. Pursuant to said notice, the electors of the independent school district met for first election of officers on the 16th day of July, 1883. C. S. Paul acted as president and O. D. Hamstreet, secretary of the meeting and at the same time judges of the election, and at the close thereof it was found that the following named citizens were elected and declared the first board of education of the independent district of Paullina, to-wit: George Hakeman, A. Hanson and J. B. Patton, directors. On the 17th day of July, 1883, said directors having qualified as by law provided, proceeded to organization by electing A. Hanson, first president, and Stephen Harris, as the first secretary, and John Baumann as first treasurer.

The following named citizens have been presidents of the board of education since the organization of the district: A. Hanson, I. L. Rerick, John Metcalf, Hudson Mickley, D. H. Adkins, Ralph Dodge, A. P. Jacobs, W. J. Hakes, John Cowan, Sr., and R. W. Young.

The independent school district now owns property valued at twenty thousand dollars and is entirely out of debt and has several thousand dollars in its treasury.

(Mr. Alger has kindly written of the churches, lodges, newspapers,

banks, etc., in Paullina, and they appear in their respective chapters in this work.—EDITOR.)

In addition to what Mr. Algyer has written on this town and vicinity the author has gleaned the following concerning early days there:

Paullina was named in honor of the Paullin brothers, who owned the land on which the town was finally platted. This is one of the few towns that started in advance of the railroad, in anticipation of its coming. When the first train of cars came in there were already several business houses on the plat of an embryo village.

The first to establish themselves in business at this point were Adkins and Davis, of Jasper county, Iowa. Their store was ready for use about the middle of March, and in it was placed a general merchandise stock, which found ready sale. Many were the days when their sales amounted to six hundred dollars. B. F. Rozell built a small house used for hotel purposes, and was named the "Pioneer House." Travelers and local guests swarmed about this hotel, and he did an excellent business from the time he was able to feed the hundreds that made application at his place. He soon had to provide larger quarters, which he did promptly. The firm of Sprague Brothers, of Primghar, was the next to open up at Paullina. It was this firm that established themselves in the livery business. This business grew and was enlarged from time to time. People had heard of the new town "out on the Hawarden branch" and wanted to see what it held in store for them. Others were mere real estate men, looking up lands in a country they knew to be valuable, in the near future, and they counted that aright.

T. E. Shrader was next to swell the number of business men, and he started a restaurant, building a large two-story building, used for both a residence and restaurant room. A bar was later added to this establishment, but not to the real betterment of the town in general.

The first regular saloon opened in Paullina was that opened by Cal Peterman in a tent near the depot grounds. Soon, however, he found his quarters too small and erected a shanty of boards, and this, later on, was replaced by a substantial building, in which he also ran a pool and billiard hall.

The first contractor and carpenter was F. C. Daniels, who began contracting and building, having in his employ as high as ten men at one time. Buildings grew as if by magic under his supervision.

But still the flood of immigration swept in to Paullina. The only obstacle in the way of advancement was the fact that the building material

all had to be hauled in from a distance of eighteen miles by team. But notwithstanding this, several pushed forward and were successful in getting into buildings speedily erected ahead of the railroad's coming. Among these may be recalled C. C. Smith, who erected a large building for holding his complete hardware stock. The stock was purchased from Johnson & Hakeman, of Primghar. So great was the trade at Paullina in this important line that additions and wings and warerooms had to be built from time to time.

The next enterprise was the hotel building erected for C. R. Waterman. It was completed and thrown open on July Fourth and christened the Paullina House. Soon the trade demanded more rooms and they were added. Very soon Waterman saw the need of a meat market and opened one. Many weeks as high as ten beeves were slaughtered, besides many hogs and sheep. "The Home and Restaurant" was the name given to another hotel, which was also opened to the public on Independence day, that year. H. Godfrey was the proprietor of the place. Perhaps the "Railroad Store," as it was styled, was doing the most business of any in Paullina at the close of the month of June. The sales run to eight hundred and fifty dollars per day. After the railroad grade was completed this stock was removed to Silver Lake, in Dickinson county.

The German shoe man from Grundy county, Theodore Wiechner, who came in from Reinbeck, hauled his lumber from Sanborn and erected his store building and opened up a boot and shoe store on Broadway.

In August, the first year of the town's history, proper, the train service was established, and it was then that the lumber business of Johnson & Hakeman, of Primghar, was removed to this point. Hundreds of car loads of lumber and coal and builder's material came rolling into the village before six months had gone by—nothing like this was ever seen in O'Brien county before nor since. J. H. Queal & Company, the great lumber operators, soon headed in this way and established a yard and sold immense quantities of both lumber and coal. The Paullina fever caught hold of some residing in Primghar and they at once rolled their buildings on wheels over to the new village. Among those who thus removed was William Hastings, who lived in his residence while it was being transported to Paullina. He also brought his blacksmith shop along and set up his glowing forge and commenced to wield his sledge. In the middle of July A. Hanson began the erection of a building, the first floor being for a hardware store, while the second was used as his residence.

Bossert & Davis started a clothing store that season; they also added groceries and found quick, profitable sales from the start. The pioneer druggist was J. H. Stevens, from Tama county, who came that summer and put in a stock of drugs in charge of Dr. C. S. Paul. Harker & Green, of Sanborn, erected four good-sized store buildings. Dr. H. C. West, a former physician of Pringhar, located in Paullina, building him a residence and an office.

The first attorney of the place was Oscar D. Hamstreet, who came in July, erected his office and remained. In October of that eventful year, an elevator was erected by L. D. Bechtell, but the largest thing in this line was the splendid grain elevator built by Edward Paullin. Its cost was about seven thousand dollars. In six months after Paullina had started it had erected buildings, the total cost of which reached more than forty thousand dollars.

That the people were possessed of culture, refinement and education it only needs to be added in this connection that in the eighties her people put a play on the boards which was entitled "The Soldier of Fortune." The parts in this excellent play were carried out by J. P. Bossert, L. A. Douglass, Frank Cooke, B. L. Pratt, Stephen Harris, Charles Harris, W. S. Loveless, J. W. Bunker. The three ladies in the play were Mrs. B. L. Pratt, Miss Jennie Gruver and Mrs. Ida Harris.

The shipments of grain for the season of 1888, shipped by two firms, were: Oats, 264,000 bushels; wheat, 64,550 bushels; barley, 185,500 bushels; flax, 46,000 bushels; corn, 86,200 bushels; timothy, 5,860 bushels; rye, 1,600 bushels.

The first Fourth of July celebration for Paullina was in the year 1885. W. R. Johnson was president of the day and J. L. E. Peck was orator. There was also a German oration by Rev. E. Zuerrer. The day was full of novel and interesting scenes, including the parade of the "Hipizorinktums," the base ball clubs, music, and foot and horse racing, the wind being too strong for the balloon to "go up" as advertised.

In 1887 a company was formed and incorporated for the purpose of building a town hall, which was completed in February, 1888.

It was in 1886 that the people caught the county-seat fever and on paper (only) made a fair showing. They also wanted the division of the North-western road, but failed in the two projects.

TOWNSHIP NOTES.

In addition to what has already been said by Mr. Algyer, in his article on the history of Union township and Paullina, it may be added that Union township, second from the west and first from the southern line of the county, had a population in 1910 of six hundred and seven.

The Norwegians were early settlers in this part of the county. The first to locate were O. S. and C. R. West, accompanied by their mother and S. J. Norland, all coming from Marshall county. These all came in the spring of 1883, locating on section 13, two and a half miles south of Paullina.

In the fall of 1883 O. P. Tjossem and L. Goodmanson, of Marshall county, Severt L. Tow, A. L. Tow and H. Graden, of Benton county, with O. P. Tjossem, of Ida county, purchased all of section 26 in Dale township, and had more or less to do with the development of Union township as the years went by. These, with the Yankee settlers who came in a little later, made up the pioneers of this township. Aside from the business transacted at Paullina, this is purely an agricultural district and is among the finest garden spots to be found in the great and growing Northwest.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP.

Liberty township was organized in 1869 as one of the three townships of the county, as then divided.

There was not much improvement or settlement in Liberty township until the building of the Sioux Falls and Cherokee branch of the Illinois Central railroad in 1887. It is in a beautiful and very productive portion of O'Brien county and has a population of about six hundred and sixty. Its town and trading place is Calumet, which unfortunately is not situated at the crossing of the two railroads that cross the township, the Northwestern and Illinois Central lines. It is located on section 22 and is a sprightly town for its size. It is on a fine prairie land and has two principal business streets, running north and south and east and west. After the completion of the track laying in the autumn of 1887, the first building erected was the depot. The first to build on the town site was a carpenter named Douglass. The first dealers to build were Wheelock Brothers, carrying a general stock of merchandise. After many changes the business was finally purchased by D. C. Fields, one of the first settlers in the township of Liberty. A postoffice was established as soon as the town was platted,

and the first postmaster and depot agent was Mr. Thornburg, who was in turn followed by Messrs Jones and George Reifsteck. The German parsonage was among the first houses erected and that served for a time for a hotel, but in 1890 a hotel proper was built. In 1897 the town contained several good business houses, including the business carried on by the J. H. Queal Lumber Company, the elevator, etc. The Methodist Episcopal and the German Lutheran churches were the first in the religious field at Calumet. The Calumet Bank was established in 1889 by Horstman Bros. & Seaman, of Sutherland, who sold to John C. Craig in 1890 (see Banking chapter). In 1895 Calumet was incorporated and the court's order answering the petition of the citizens interested made the town to comprise "The south half of the northwest quarter and the north half of the southeast quarter of section 22, Liberty township." The incorporating commissioners appointed by the court were W. M. Bunce, B. Harrington, J. W. Neild, L. Reifsteck and D. C. Fields. At the election to see whether the town should be incorporated or not, the vote stood nineteen for and ten against. The measure having carried, the first election for town officers was held April 17, 1895, when the following were elected: W. M. Bunce, mayor; J. W. Neild, recorder; L. Reifsteck, D. C. Fields, Ernest Pape, E. W. McComber, Peter Rehder and Lewis Meade, councilmen. The mayors of the place have been William M. Bunce, many years; George Reifsteck, many years; Fred Nott, E. Mann. The town officers in 1913 are: Mayor, E. Mann; recorder, A. Sohn; treasurer, Frank Worden; councilmen, Ernest Boldt, J. W. Mathern, John Riechers, William Meier and Fred Nott.

Calumet has a good town hall, erected in 1889-90, at a cost of four thousand dollars. It seats three hundred and has a large stage. It stands on the north side of Main street and was built by the subscriptions of citizens in both the town and township. It is used free of cost to the people of the neighborhood; they only have to provide the lights and fuel. Here are held the public meetings and gatherings of the neighborhood. The town also purchased a full block for park purposes and in 1906 there were planted out fourteen hundred maple and box elder trees, and these have already come to be a handsome sight and provide a good shade in summer time. At the entrance to the park stands a United States cannon, secured through the efforts of the late honored Congressman, Elbert H. Hubbard, of Sioux City.

The only fire protection of Calumet is the chemical engine, two street wells, with hose and hook and ladder appliances. The electric light plant of the town is the private property of Fred Nott. It was installed in 1911.

and supplies the town with a twenty-four-hour service in the most modern service of lighting. The town is in touch with the outside world by the use of the Calumet telephone line, together with twelve farmers' lines, and the Iowa State and New State company's lines, with which the Calumet line connects.

A good brass band was organized here a few years since, consisting of twenty-two pieces. It was formed and is instructed by the foreman of the *Pringhar Bell*, Ralph Langley. It is a credit to the vicinity.

The history of the Calumet postoffice shows that one was established here as soon as the place was platted. The depot agent, Mr. Thornburg, was made first postmaster and was succeeded as follows: D. C. Fields, Daniel Harrington, George Reifsteck, Ezra McComber, Thomas Rehder and the present incumbent, Gust Linneweh, in whose store the postoffice is now kept.

On May 19, 1897, Calumet met with a serious loss by reason of a sweeping fire, destroying five of its best business houses. Books, papers and goods were totally destroyed by the flames of that fire. The total loss was estimated at the time at about twelve thousand dollars.

The present population of Calumet is about three hundred. The business interests of the place in the autumn of 1913 were as follows:

Bank—Bank of Calumet, George Reifsteck.

Barber—Jess Redmann.

Blacksmith and machinery—E. Boldt.

Cream station—R. Branco.

Concrete bridge work—Lewis Mead.

Cement factory—Frank Worden.

Confectionery—Theo. Steen.

Contractor and builder—A. F. Sohm.

Drugs—J. E. Farnsworth.

Elevator—E. Mann.

Garage—Fred Nott.

Hotel—Otto Grutzmann.

Hardware and furniture—James Ewaldt.

Harness—C. H. Merry.

Lumber—J. H. Queal & Co.

Livery—Henry Wolter.

Meats—A. Mueller.

Merchandise (general stores)—Gust Linneweh, Henry Freer.

Newspaper—The *Independent*.

Pool hall—John Schimmer.

Physicians and surgeons—Dr. O. T. Jacobs, Dr. Sievers.

Stock buyer—Henry Wolter.

Telephones—Calumet Iowa Telephone Company and New State Telephone Company, Pearl Steen operator.

The town supports two churches, the Methodist and German Evangelical, an account of which is found in the chapter on churches.

What is known as an independent school in Liberty township is located at the incorporation line of Calumet, where, in 1910, at the expense of seven thousand five hundred dollars, a modern school house was erected. It is on section 22 and is free to all pupils within the townships.

WATERMAN TOWNSHIP.

The whole county was at first one township, and called Waterman township after Hannibal H. Waterman, the first inhabitant of the county, as was likewise Waterman river named for him. On November 10, 1861, what is now Hartley, Lincoln, Franklin, Floyd, Omega, Center, Summit, Carroll, Dale, Baker, Union and Caledonia was organized into O'Brien township and the first election ordered to be held at the house of Archibald Murray, March 1, 1861. The county continued with these two townships, Waterman and O'Brien, until September 24, 1869, when O'Brien township was discarded and the county was divided into three townships as follows: Waterman township to consist of what is now Waterman, Highland, Center, Lincoln, and the south tier of sections of Grant. Grant township to consist of what is now Grant, except the south tier of sections. Grant township was named after Gen. U. S. Grant. Liberty township to consist of what is now Liberty, Union, Dale, Summit, Caledonia, Franklin, Baker, Carroll and Floyd townships.

On January 3, 1870, the south tier of sections of what is now Grant was set apart from Waterman to Grant, except the southeast quarter of section 36 of same. On January 21, 1871, the southeast quarter of section 36 of same was likewise set back to Grant.

The first settlement effected within the borders of O'Brien county was by Hannibal H. Waterman, who with his wife Hannah H. and their one child, Emily A. Waterman, came in from Bremer county, Iowa, during the month of July, 1856, fifty-seven years ago. They came with an ox team and had all of their household goods along with them. The government land had not as yet been surveyed, so Mr. Waterman became a "squatter," following up his filing, later, when the land office was established

at Sioux City. He selected for his claim the northwest quarter of section 22, township 94, range 39, now in Waterman civil township. There he erected a log house, eighteen by twenty-two feet. It stood in all its glory, the pioneer dwelling place of a brave, praiseworthy man now so well known in the county, but who has long since passed from earth's shining circle. His next house was built in 1860, a much better building, and this served until 1887, when it was burned in the month of April. In the old log cabin, first used by Mr. and Mrs. Waterman, was born the first child to see the light of day in O'Brien county, as far as is known among the white race. This child was Anna Waterman, who became the wife of D. W. Kenyon, and in 1888 lived in Woodbine, Harrison county, Iowa, where in December, 1889, she died.

This township of Waterman was indeed the mother hive of all the townships. Several men later prominent in the public affairs homesteaded in this township. Among them was Ed. C. Brown, for thirty years a banker in Sheldon, who homesteaded on section 30. Archibald Murray, who figured so much in this history, in the early day, filed the first homestead entry on the west half of the southwest quarter of section 14. Ed. A. Nissen, who was an early sheriff for eight years, settled on section 8, and Michael Sweeney on section 14. Silas Steele, still residing at Sutherland, on section 18. Henry C. Tiffey, who was on hand at the very organization of the county and who sold to the county forty acres for court house purposes, settled on section 36. William Houston Woods, popularly known as "Huse" Woods, and who was the main leader in the Taxpayers' Association movement and made a vigorous fight to get rid of the old bad debt from his viewpoint, on section 8. We have already in other items recited Hannibal Waterman's early life in the county, and it will not be necessary to repeat it here.

We will remark in general, relating to these old homesteaders, there were about six hundred in all, and a complete list of them may be found in the book of original entries, a book made up and certified to at the United States land office.

The next settler to occupy the land of this goodly county was he so well-known as "Dutch Fred," or Fred Feldman, who, it is related, was a real character study, being odd and original in all his manners. He claimed to have been a deserter from King William's army in Germany. He was wont to remark that here "All hold office but me, and I am de peoples." He lived a secluded, lonely life and in 1873 was taken ill, and when his true condition was known he was kindly and tenderly cared for by the will-

ing hands of the pioneer settlers. He refused to have a doctor called and said his time had come, and wished to die, and he did die and was buried on his own claim in Waterman township. His claim was the northeast quarter of section 34, township 94, range 39.

Following the last named settler came in Daniel W. Inman and brother, Chester W. Inman; these came in the spring of 1868, and were followed the same season by several others, and W. H. Baker came in the spring of 1869. C. W. Inman married Kate, daughter of W. H. Baker. D. W. Inman emigrated to Oregon many years ago and his brother, C. W., died in 1894, at the hands of a neighbor, who was convicted of manslaughter and served two years in the penitentiary. Inman was known as Major Inman, having served in the Union cause in Civil-war days and participated in the last battle of that great conflict, Bentonville, where he commanded the advance picket line, under such hard firing that his conduct was mentioned by General Logan in his official reports. His widow settled in Primghar.

Another settler who came in about that date was H. F. Smith ("Hank"), who, in February, 1868, when a mere stripling of a boy, landed in Old O'Brien and viewed all of the first events of that historic starting point and landmark of O'Brien county. The first settlers, some of them, had left, but those still residing there when Smith came in were the Inman boys, R. B. Crego, H. H. Waterman, A. Murray and Andrew Brown, a school teacher. Young Smith was not of age and could not enter land, but worked in the neighborhood faithfully until he became old enough to act like other men. He followed teaming for the most part. The same year he came the settlement was added to by the advent of E. T. Parker, then about the same age of Hank Smith, both being counted the liveliest lads in the new county. Parker and his brother, H. F., came together, driving across the state of Iowa with a horse and buggy, but walked most of the way on account of bad roads and a heavy load of supplies. Parker came chiefly with the view of trapping and hunting. He traded his horse off and secured a mule team and was the happiest of mortals at the possession of a real genuine team of mules. It was not long before Hank Smith and Ed Parker were partners and doing a very extensive teaming and freighting business. They built the first bridge in O'Brien county, though thousands of dollars had been appropriated for such purposes in this county prior to that date. This bridge was over a creek east of Old O'Brien, not far out from that village.

In speaking of this pioneer bridge, a writer many years since said: "They cut the native timber, made it into the proper length of logs, of which

there were four, stretched across the run on proper rests, and on these were placed five cross pieces. They then hauled logs to Peterson's mill, which were sawed into planks, and with these in place, and the grading completed, the bridge was done, and it was a good job. The boys were two days in building it, and got two dollars per day each, thus earning eight dollars between them, but the bridge cost the county five hundred dollars, as this amount in warrants was issued to the contractor."

Soon after Parker's arrival at Old O'Brien, he went out on a hunting expedition in the timber of Waterman township and at a point a mile distant from pioneer Baker's house, he killed a deer, which was brought in by the men in town, after Parker had informed them of his success at shooting game.

But prior to the coming of Smith and Parker, there came S. B. Hurlbert, commonly called "Governor" Hurlbert. He came into the township in the autumn of 1866, and his wife was the first white woman who ever lived on the west side of the Little Sioux river in O'Brien county. Hurlbert constructed what was styled a trapper's fort at the mouth of what has since been styled Hurlbert's creek, and there put in several seasons at trapping and hunting. In the fall of 1869 he was elected sheriff of his county. He was a thorough frontiersman; had lived in Wright county, this state, at an early day, when the family of which he was a member had to go seventy miles to mill. He later removed to Texas, where he engaged in photographing.

The old Major Inman house was burned in March, 1897. It was first started in the autumn of 1869, and several years later it was largely added to. The lower story was of stone, while the remainder was of frame. It was near Waterman creek. In the construction of the original part of this house the lumber was hauled from Fort Dodge. The farm on which it stood was what is now known as the Cedar Cliff farm, later owned by Messrs. Peck, Artherholt and Ingham; it is a part of section 26. On the same section George Hurlbert built his log cabin in 1867, afterwards selling his claim to Major Inman.

SUTHERLAND.

Sutherland is on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad line, on section 7, and was named for the Duke of Sutherland, who was visiting a railroad official at the date the town was projected, hence he named it in honor of him, it is related.

Joseph Cowen erected the first building on the plat in 1882. The West-

ern Town Lot Company, of course, laid out this as well as numerous other town sites along this line of road. G. W. Meader built the first store building, and in it was kept a hardware stock. Charles Briggs started the second hardware store of the place. A. M. Cilley was the first to dispense drugs. The Park hotel was the pioneer traveler's home, erected with the first year's history of the place. It was built by James Reager and was known as the Reager House.

D. M. Sheldon erected a building for the first general stock, but it was destroyed by a cyclone which went through the town in June, 1882. Among the early buildings in the place were the saloon and the railroad land office. The cyclone made sad work among the new buildings and at first stunned the various enterprises.

The real pioneers, all of whom were there before the close of 1883, were A. Towberman & Son, furniture; R. M. Van Horn, blacksmith; L. W. Fairbanks, general dealer; Mrs. A. W. Hoyt, millinery; H. A. Peck, land office; Briggs & Cobb, druggists; Horstman Brothers, general store; J. F. Shepard, restaurant; L. Schwertferger, shoe store; Vulgamott Brothers, meat market; J. N. Slick & Company, grocers and boots and shoes; Thompson & Porter, lumber office; F. E. Farnsworth, restaurant; Cleveland & Bark, livery stable; S. Gracey, clothier; E. H. Farnsworth, groceries and provisions; E. C. Cummings, liveryman; J. B. Dunn & Company, land office; Sage & Healey, land office; D. M. Sheldon & Company, grain, coal, stock and lumber; M. E. Hoyt, livery; C. E. Johnson, Cleveland Hotel; William Kugel, barber shop; D. W. Nichols, real estate office; M. D. Purcell, auctioneer; J. M. Louthan, physician and surgeon; J. C. Bonham, homeopathic doctor; George F. Colcord and J. B. Dunn, attorneys-at-law. The above were all identified with Sutherland early in the spring of 1884.

The newspapers of Sutherland will be treated in the Press chapter.

One of the potent factors in Sutherland, and one that tends to show the character and intellect of the population, is the well selected list of volumes in the public library. It is known as the Baker Library and was named in honor of General Baker, so greatly beloved by the settlers of O'Brien county. It was established in Waterman township in 1874, and to Mrs. Roma W. Woods must ever be given much credit for its establishment and final success. During "grasshopper" days it was hard to keep this library alive. Mrs. Woods, in a well-written article in 1884, said: "Two years of enthusiasm, in the centennial year with its magnificent promise of crops. Alas! for

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the library, also for us all. As the grain was whitening for the harvest, locusts filled the air with silvery brightness, and covered the ground with brown ugliness, destroying the crops entirely."

"Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Doling, of Liberty, and Stephen Harris, of Primghar, were able to pay their interest that year, and they alone. The next year the young locusts sprang from every inch of ground.

"In the long winter that followed, our library was a friend indeed. But few could pay their interest, but the books went everywhere. The height had been reached the second year, and for six years we traveled the lowlands. The income of the library was but nominal; a few new books were added each year and during the fourth year there was sent a box of periodicals from Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Brewster, of New York City, also a box containing forty choice books, the gift of Hon. George W. Ellis and wife, Hon. Edward Russell and wife of Davenport, Iowa, and Stewart Ellis and wife of Moline, Illinois. I am sure these friends have never realized how valuable and timely were their gifts."

The county fair ground is located immediately adjoining the town of Sutherland. While this fair is county wide in its scope, and state wide in its legal intendments, it is like unto the state capital question at Des Moines. There can be but one state capital and it can only be located in one spot. The people, state wide, take a pride in its greatness. It must be Iowa size in proportions. Likewise there can be but one county fair in a county. Des Moines also takes a city pride in the proper appearance and management of its state buildings and surrounding grounds. Likewise, as Hartley in civic pride points to its soldier's monument, erected by a public spirited citizen of the county; likewise, as Sanborn delights in her large railroad round house and shops, in the great work of preparation in management of one hundred miles of a great railroad system, in moving our crops, products and travel; likewise, as Sutherland and Sheldon point with educational pride to their public libraries, and as the latter points to its district fair and three railroads; likewise, as Primghar feels a satisfaction in the county-seat location; like as every citizen in this county points out the twenty-five and fifty-thousand-dollar farms in this exclusively agricultural community, so Sutherland points out the county fair. Sutherland has indeed for now twenty-seven years put in that energy and mass citizenship organization, as all public men will recognize as necessary to keep up and maintain such an enterprise. The very fact that it has been so conducted for now more than a quarter of a century speaks its own stability in public affairs as so successfully carried out by this town.

The beginning of Fourth of July celebrations in Sutherland commenced in 1884, when George F. Colcord read the Declaration of Independence and J. B. Dunn delivered the oration. It was a rainy day and it was difficult to carry out an interesting program. Two thousand people were in town that day. At nightfall, fireworks illuminated the dark skies.

The first great destruction by the fire fiend was November 30, 1884, when Towberman & Sons' store caught fire in the evening, and the store and contents were totally ruined. An implement warehouse was also burned.

On August 8, 1885, the loyal citizens of Sutherland paid their last loving respects to the dead soldier and statesman, ex-President U. S. Grant. Exercises were held in Wood's grove. A procession a full half mile in length, with not less than one thousand people, including many old Grand Army comrades, marched in line to this beautiful grove. Hon. E. C. Herrick, that faithful attorney and orator of Cherokee, delivered a befitting oration.

In the eighties there was a large amount of grain shipped from the new town of Sutherland. From August, 1885, to February, 1886, there were shipped, in all, four hundred and fifty-seven car loads of various kinds of grain, raised on the near-by farm lands.

MUNICIPAL HISTORY.

Sutherland was legally incorporated in 1883, with officers elected to serve until the March election of 1884, at which time the following were elected town officers: W. S. Hitchings, mayor; C. H. Brintnall, recorder; A. M. Cilley, treasurer; C. W. Inman, assessor; A. Horstman, J. M. Slick, A. C. Bliss, C. W. Briggs, H. E. Hoagland, C. P. Gracey, trustees; C. Nelson, street commissioner.

The mayors have been in the following order to 1889 (the record later being incomplete): W. S. Hitchings, A. M. Cilley, J. C. Bonham, W. P. Davis, D. F. Shunway, J. C. Briggs, E. W. Parker, who commenced in 1904.

The corporation officials for the town of Sutherland in 1913 are: E. W. Parker, mayor; C. H. Jenner, clerk; T. B. Bark, treasurer; E. L. Cobb, marshal; J. O. Hakeman, Otto Peters, Adolph Pringel A. J. Sieh, H. J. Briggs, councilmen.

A good system of water works was provided by the issuing of bonds to the amount of three thousand five hundred dollars, running twenty years. This system was commenced in 1903 and consists of a well two hundred and six feet deep that affords an abundance of the purest water. A system of compressed air forces the water over the town. This, with a chemical engine,

ladders and hose, protects the place from fires. The town also provided itself with a septic tank and filter, which was planned and installed by men of experience from Ames and this gives universal satisfaction. There are two and a half acres of land on which the city has its waterworks plant.

In 1906 a complete sewer system was installed in Sutherland, making it a healthy town in which to reside. In 1893 the authorities purchased a full block of four hundred feet square, for park purposes, and the same year planted out many hundreds of beautiful maple, elm and ash trees. These have already made a fine growth and in the summer the lawn is kept well mowed and cared for by competent persons, making this spot one of rare beauty. Here the native birds and squirrels abound in goodly numbers.

The lighting of the town is furnished by a private corporation known as the Peterson Power and Mill Company, which established here a lighting system by electricity derived from the power gained by the dam across the river at Peterson. This improvement came to Sutherland in 1913.

The postoffice at Sutherland is of the third class and has three rural free delivery routes extending to the country adjacent. The following have served as postmasters here: E. H. Farnsworth, July, 1884, to February, 1886; H. A. Sage, from February, 1886, to October, 1889; C. E. Achorn, from October, 1889, to June, 1893; George Colcord, from June, 1893, to June, 1897; H. L. Chesley, from 1897 to June, 1906; Mrs. Edna Chesley, June, 1906, to October, 1907; Charles W. Briggs, from October, 1907, to present date.

BUSINESS FACTORS OF 1913.

In the month of November, 1913, the following were engaged in business at Sutherland:

Auto garages—Lewis Goss, Frank Klema, Marcus Jones.

Banks—State and First Savings.

Barber shops—John Hamann, Thomas Doling.

Blacksmith shops—Oliver Smith, Charles Spencer.

Corn-plow shovel factory—Charles Burmeister.

Clothing—J. C. Paulsen.

Creamery—Mr. Christensen.

Drugs—Ray Crum.

Dentist—Dr. Kenderdine.

Dray lines—Powell & Townsend, D. W. Parks.

Furniture—A. J. Innis.

- General stores—E. Lampman & Son; W. H. Plager, A. H. Schultz, Farmers Co-Operative Store and E. B. Michael.
 Grain dealers—Farmers Co-Operative Company, Metcalf & Camon.
 Hotel—The City, by Mrs. Greene.
 Hardware—J. O. Hakeman, Charles Van Etten.
 Hack line—J. Coulter.
 Harness shop—C. H. Merry.
 Implements—R. H. Tinkham, D. S. Shumway, Charles Nott.
 Jewelers—Charles Spurlock, W. J. Pickrell.
 Livery—L. O. Bidwell.
 Lumber dealers—J. H. Queal & Co., A. J. Sieh.
 Meat market—A. Mueller.
 Millinery—Miss Olds and Miss Strand.
 Newspaper—*The Courier*.
 Opera House—Charles Nott.
 Physicians—D. T. Kas, B. S. Louthan, E. W. Parker, F. L. Nichols, G. A. Auperle.
 Photograph—J. C. Claussen.
 Produce—Hanfords Produce Company.
 Pool halls—Fred Nott, Will Behmer, Dick Rumper.
 Restaurants—H. J. Briggs, Burt Phinney, Andrew Hillbert, Mrs. Butler.
 Stock dealers—Metcalf & Cannon, Jo. Shaeffer, Otto Peters.
 Shoe shop—Henry Goetch.
 Well maker—Ed. Clift.

The lodges of the town are the Masons, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias; see chapter on lodges in this volume.

The churches are the Methodist, Christian and Catholic, all mentioned in the church chapter. See account of the N. B. Baker public library, by Mrs. Woods.

Many years ago there was organized here a Good Templars lodge and they were provided with a suitable hall which is still in use. This organization accomplished much good in and around Sutherland.

COMMENT IN GENERAL ON A PIONEER PHASE.

The writer participated for thirty years in many of the pioneer strenuous incidents, as for instance, the fraudulent debt excitements, the Sanborn raid, the squatter questions, with its contests for possession, and the county-seat

contests and other items. While on sundry of these excitable occasions they became in effect tumults, and while I knew at times that many had revolvers, it never occurred to me that I needed one, or that I even desired to hurt any person physically. I always treated even those excitements as merely public questions, in which I was but an individual part. I never in my life carried a revolver for a single hour. Even in the midst of the Sanborn raid, in which I took a part, George W. Schee and myself, right there on the ground while it was going on, talked of it and decided that whatever else took place we would hold our temper and not bring on a conflict, though we did participate in cutting harness and pulling the nuts off the wagon wheels, but in the act decided that we would desist if a physical conflict came on. We then and there decided that the merits of the question would solve the proposition. Indeed I don't think, serious though it was, that I ever had as much solid amusement and fun and laughter, so to speak, as I did during the week of the Sanborn raid on the court house, with all its details and jokes and oddities, though we all insisted on the rights of the public and the county as we viewed it. The reader will perhaps pardon the use of the pronoun I by the writer hereof at times, inasmuch as he personally participated in these matters.

CHAPTER XXV.

O'BRIEN COUNTY IN THE HUMOROUS.

The early days produced its stern, quaint and eccentric characters on many lines, who did business, and brought results to pass, and made successes in O'Brien county.

DR. CLANNING LONGSHORE CURED HIM.

Dr. Clanning Longshore, of Sheldon, was an early, eccentric and able physician. He was called to a gentleman patient, in bed on his back. Whether the eccentric doctor had his doubts or why, but as a remedial operation all but surgical, in his rough and tumble manner he actually got into bed with him, and began to roll him and tumble him, very much *a la* John Sullivan, with the patient heroically remonstrating and finally yelling that it would break his back, with the doctor all the time vigorously continuing to demonstrate as if at a clinic and retorting that that was what he was trying to do, to break his (adjective) back and limber him up and get him out of that bed forthwith and immediately. The patient was only too glad to get up and run clear out of the house, swearing that it was the (adjective) dose of medicine or surgery he ever took in his life. He literally got him up off a sick bed in real earnest.

JOKES OFTEN ILLUSTRATE FACTS.

We will not to any extent give place to small jokes, but, for spice herein, will give space to some jokes which illustrate some early quaint surroundings and the fears, doings and facts in the county.

"POMP" M'CORMACK'S INDIAN SCARE.

As heretofore remarked, "Pomp" McCormack was an inveterate joker, not merely with individuals, but with the whole community. What was known as the "Primghar Art League," a circle of thirty who for ten years in early days conducted a weekly discussion of current events and questions

at the homes, held an annual outing picnic on the Waterman. With their friends, on this occasion they numbered seventy, going down in buggy conveyance for the day. "Pomp" was early in the morning on hand and down on the Waterman, as an advance current event. The crowd even were not appraised of it, only a few. He had been on the stage in early life and knew how to "make up" a character. He dressed up as a veritable Indian and went down all prepared with actual pony, feathers, rifle, blanket and tomahawk, with all the gestures. He also made up similarly several of the boys on hand. They first gave out along the route that a band of Indians were on the Waterman. As the crowd proceeded along the road, "Pomp's" advance boys had started up in curiosity, if not fright, and warned them of the fact. At the point of the picnic on the Waterman, on the homestead of O. A. Sutton, on a high hill where it could be seen for a mile or more, "Pomp" put up several wigwam tents, got his pony and the boys and equipments into action, and held a veritable Indian war dance, with whoops and yells and firing of rifles. The news spread all over Grant and part of Highland as the real thing. The fears handed down from the real and awful Spirit Lake massacre were still fresh in people's minds. It was all humorous, half serious, and a quite practical and harmless joke, and worked with both the picnickers and resident families.

POMP AND JURGEN RENKEN'S GARDEN OF EDEN.

This time it was at Sheldon. "Pomp" made himself up as a genuine Irishman, with long, loose duster that hid his identity of body, with other make-up to match, and appeared at the office of Jurgen Renken as a man with means seeking to buy a good sized farm for his family of "byes." Pomp could imitate the Irish brogue to perfection and keep it up all day. Mr. Renken held large land holdings, and sold for others. Mr. Renken was a veritable uplifter of what he could see in the genuine qualities of the grand soil and future of the country, and became quite famous the county over in spreading the word of "Jurgen Renken's Garden of Eden," as he called the lands he showed up to people and purchasers. "Pomp" was quite anxious to get located and Jurgen was anxious to show up his Eden and make sales and settle up the county. A land trip for miles around Sheldon was arranged, and "Pomp" and Mr. Renken were soon driving over the then broad prairies, and "Pomp" all the time entertaining Mr. Renken in continuous flow of Irish wit. Though Mr. Renken and "Pomp" were well acquainted, he did not take in the situation, so perfectly did Mr. McCormack carry it out. When

within about four miles of Sheldon on return, "Pomp" accidentally (?) lost his handkerchief, dropping it. Mr. Renken, all eager to serve his purchaser, jumped out and back after it, when "Pomp" drove off and into Sheldon, with the treats on the Garden of Eden, and Mr. Renken to walk into Sheldon four miles for his health.

SAME IRISH JOKE IN ANOTHER FORM.

"Pomp" was similarly "made up" and with long duster, again Irish. The town of Primghar had just got its road, and E. W. Shuck with others had just laid out the several additions to the town and each eager to sell town lots and get the town started just after the road arrived. Shuck placed the selling of lots in hands of Tom Ward, then new attorney. "Pomp" appeared at Ward's office to locate his "byes" in the town, and would build and improve. Shuck was called in, as a secret matter, not to allow the other agents to get hold of it. Though Tom was daily with "Pomp," he never so much as "hooked on," but bit, with full mouth, the whole joke. "Pomp" had elaborate contracts drawn, with all his objections included. Along in the evening, after sundry consultations and "Pomp" walking both Tom and Shuck all over town looking at properties to sell, "Pomp" arranged to have the jokers of town on hand at the climax of signing up the contracts, which was all carried out, when "Pomp" made himself known in front of Tom's office with the boys all calling for the full treats of Shuck and Tom. "Pomp" had suddenly got mad, kicked the contract out, and raised such rumpus that the boys outside all appeared.

THIS TIME IT WAS TOM AND POMP SET UP THE PINS.

Tom Ward was absent all day trying a law suit at Paullina. "Pomp" first got all the town fellows to decorate Tom's front windows and the lot surrounding on the plan of the Sioux City Corn Palace, only in burlesque. They planted out several rows of the biggest tall, five-foot weeds on each side of the office, and the windows and front corresponding, this for Tom's showing upon return. Then, through a party happening to be going to Paullina, "Pomp" communicated to Tom and arranged for Tom to have his leg broke in joke and word to be sent back to Primghar during the afternoon. The word came back soon and created a lot of sympathy. Word came that a team was bringing him across on a stretcher. "Pomp" then arranged to have the court house fellows be ready to carry him up stairs to his room in the hotel.

It all worked out to exact time and fact. Tom's leg was all fixed up true to the expert surgeon, ready for the show with the boys. They actually carried him up stairs by main strength, some dozen assisting. In the meantime "Pomp" had said to the town boys that it would be a mean trick to leave the planted weed decorations at his office, under such affliction. They had all carefully removed same when Tom arrived. To round it up, when the right time came, and after they had all gone through with their great sympathies and carefully handling him to his room, he jumped up and danced all over and down stairs and over the hotel, and all wound up in a hilarious time during the evening. But "Pomp" could work both sides of such a joke to perfection, and on good sized scale.

"POMP" M'CORMACK ON THE COUNTY CAPITOL LOOK STORY.

This time the joke was on "Pomp" himself. One Sunday forenoon a bunch of the court house officials set up a job, and induced all hands, including "Pomp," to go up on Mt. Aetna to the top of the capitol building, the "Court House Lookatory." It worked, without "Pomp" hooking on, and all hands landed in the cupola. Keeping "Pomp" engaged in conversation, they one by one slid down the ladder in the attic, and drew the ladder after them, leaving "Pomp" as monarch of all he surveyed. For some reason, he had no means of escape. The court house rats for once in their lives all went to church, but first passing the word all along the line, around the square and at hotels, that "Pomp" was holding Sunday services up on high, but that no one should listen to him nor attend upon his services. He remained there until sometime in the afternoon. It was one time that he thought justice was called for.

DIG TILL I COME BACK.

It was Col. Osmond M. Barrett, an attorney at Sheldon and for eight years state senator of this district, who loved a game of chess. He hired an Irishman to dig and prepare a hot bed in the spring. He started the man at work by platting off the size desired, and told him to dig away until he returned and went down town. He was soon engaged in a game of chess. He did not return until nearly night. As he approached his home he could see some spadefuls of dirt coming up over a great pile. The man had proved faithful. He had dug a great hole some ten or twelve feet deep. He had dug until he came back. It took another day to fill it up.

WOLF SCALP JOKE.

J. L. E. Peck was county auditor, whose duty it was to issue the bounties on prairie wolf scalps. George Ginger, of Grant, brought in six young wolves in a sack, alive. The auditor took him out by the side of the court house and between them they killed the wolves. They returned to the auditor's office, and prepared an affidavit for Mr. Ginger to sign to the effect that they were and had been killed. Mr. Ginger was somewhat of a wag. He remarked: "What a damn fool that Peck is to go out himself and see and help kill those wolves and then make me sign an affidavit and swear to it, that they were dead."

FOR WANT OF PREJUDICE.

It was a justice of the peace case that was called and ready for trial before his honor, Justice W. H. Hammond, of Grant township, in an early day. The attorney for the defendant decided to take a change of venue. He made out the affidavit for same, making it read that he asked a change of venue "For want of prejudice."

HIS NAME WAS JIM.

It often happens in the curious and wandering individuals who roam over the country, and who become a nuisance, that they must be restrained and sent to the hospital for the insane, and charged up to the county until it is ascertained where they belong. It also happens that many of these people are cute enough to refuse to give their names or homes. One of these individuals some years ago was before the three commissioners of insanity for the county. They were attempting to ascertain his home in order to get the cost of his care on to some other county. No persuasion could induce him to tell. Question: "Where do you live?" Answer: "In the United States." "What is your name?" "Jim." "What is the rest of your name?" "Well, when they got to Jim they quit." He was sent simply as "Jim."

A BUNDLE OF RAGS.

The commission for insanity in 1912 had one very queer specimen of humanity to deal with. He was not simply ragged. That did not express it. He was simply one mass of strips and rags sewed one on top of the other.

He had newspapers packed in and around him and between the strips to keep warm, or rather to keep from freezing, for it was winter. The commission stripped from him every vestige of the one-time clothing. He had been sleeping in hay stacks, barns, school houses and other like places. He had frightened sundry school teachers. When people would notice him, he would run on his hands and knees through the corn fields. His clothes were carefully examined. On his person, in rags upon rags tightly he had thus sewed up two hundred and fifty dollars in bills, many of which he said himself he had had since 1880. They were sent to Washington for redemption. The bills were about ready to fall to pieces from dry rot. He also had one hundred and thirty dollars sewed up likewise in gold, all tarnished from long years of carrying around. He would give no name nor place of residence. He was sent as "John Doe." He said, on questions being asked, that he had seen better days. He was well educated. He was well posted on business matters. He may have been a college professor or banker. He evidently had family connections he would not divulge. His money was returned when released from Cherokee.

AN O'BRIEN COUNTY SOLO.

It was George R. Whitmer, member of the lower house of the General Assembly of Iowa in 1905, who was in his seat, when a loquacious member had been speaking for an unusually long time, and had been specially loud and long in his quotations from the Scriptures and in pounding out his conclusions from Holy Writ. Just as he was in his climax, Mr. Whitmer solemnly rose to his seat with, "Mr. Speaker, I rise to a point of order." The speaker pounded his gavel, and announced in equally solemn tones, "The gentleman from O'Brien county rises to a point of order. The Honorable gentleman from O'Brien county will state to the house his point of order." By this time it was all stillness and attention. Mr. Whitmer then gravely stated his point of order: "Mr. Speaker, the hour for devotions has expired."

A REVIVAL IN THE COURT ROOM.

It was a hot afternoon in the court room in the court house in Primghar. The judge was on the bench. A lull for some reason was taking place. Hon. Scott M. Ladd, now O'Brien county's able and honored representative, was presiding as the then district court judge. Judge J. H. Swan, one of the very able attorneys of northwest Iowa, from Sioux City, was on hand represent-

ing the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad. The lull in the proceedings had become oppressive. There was nothing doing, and Mr. Swan, apparently dozing as if half unconscious where he was, broke out in a loud voice with that familiar hymn, "Revive us again," and sung a whole verse through, when all hands began to realize that this was not a "camp meeting," but a solemn court, when all hands at the bar applauded, leaving Judge Swan bowing as if before the footlights.

THE JUDGE NEEDED A SWEAT.

It was the irrepressible Milt H. Allen, one of the early attorneys at the O'Brien county bar, who always had an icicle to crush down the back of the neck of several who were present, or some other equally impressive ceremony. The judge and attorneys were at the hotel, and the good Judge Hutchison, who also loves a good joke, had returned. It was a very hot night, but late in the fall—in fact, cold spells had started. The Judge was asleep. Milt smelled a good bed-time joke. He carried all the clothes from his own bed and his own personal clothes and piled them on top of the good judge. Milt had disrobed to the night gown and lay down. The judge, however, had been sleeping with one eye open. Quietly he rose and turned the key in the door. It being already the fall of the year, during the night it grew very unpleasantly cold. Mr. Allen wanted his clothes. He rapped at the door of the Judge's room. The Judge continued to sleep soundly. Mr. Allen begged and continued to freeze. Mr. Allen contended that he was simply trying to give the judge what he thought he needed, a sweat. At least it was one case where he did not secure the ear of the court. This occurred in a hotel at Sibley. Inasmuch as Judge William Hutchinson belongs to and holds court in both counties, and as this is a joint history of O'Brien and Osceola county, Mr. Allen being from O'Brien county at that time, it is one case where the two counties come together in a court item.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, THE RECORDER'S OFFICE IS NOW OPEN.

It was Dr. Clanning Longshore, one of the earliest of physicians from Sheldon, who, in 1876, was elected county recorder. The good Doctor has a powerful voice. When he spoke on the street, they used to call it whispering. He had much of the idea of the humorous. When he opened office he opened court, with all the solemnity of a court and by the sheriff. He would first pound on the office door with three raps, and in one of his whispering

court orders would announce in a manner that every court official would hear and understand, "Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye, the county recorder's office is now open and ready for business."

W. H. DOWNING, FOR THE DEMOCRATS, SCORES AN OFFICE.

It was at the election of 1904. The office was vacant by reason of the resignation of Ed. R. Wood as clerk of courts. J. F. Boyer had been appointed temporarily to fill the vacancy. That, however, under the law, could only last until the voters would have an opportunity to elect, which meant that Mr. Boyer would be clerk until election. At the Republican convention Harry C. May was nominated for the regular full term, but no mention or even thought was made of the interim term of about a month and a half from election to January first. The Democrats at the election made no nomination for the interim. Thus far no nomination was made. The Democrats laid low. The law further says that if no nomination is made, then a man may be nominated by petition if done ten days before election. Late in the evening of the tenth day before election, the Democrats filed a petition for the nomination of W. H. Downing for this month and a half interim. The Republicans had slept on their rights. Mr. Downing being the only man in the printed ticket, was elected. The Republicans were helpless. It was simply a case where good shrewd politics scored a point and nominated a man who was all right for the office. He served for the short interim term.

JOKES REMINISCENT.

It was the eccentric Dr. Clanning Longshore, that pioneer physician of the early days, who did enough free practice and service during those years when there was no money, which if paid for would have made a man rich. A little child of homesteader John Griffith, in Carroll township, had swallowed a dose of concentrated lye. There were no telephones in those days. A horserider was quickly dispatched into Sheldon for Doctor Longshore. He came hurriedly. "My God," said the Doctor as he rushed in the house, "cram a lot of lard down its throat and make soap out of the lye." The child was saved. The Doctor knew how to make soap, to neutralize and start things.

GIVE IT TO HER; PERHAPS IT WILL KILL HER, PERHAPS IT WILL CURE HER.

It was when Doctor Longshore was county recorder, and was attending at his duties at the county seat and boarding at the hotel. At urgent request he had made a trip beyond Hartley to a patient. Like all homesteaders, they had no money. They came in middle of night for him to make a second trip. He was a little surmised with the idea that it was questionable whether the patient was bad enough off for warranting a long trip. He stuck his head out the hotel window up-stairs and yelled out, "Got any money?" "No." "Well, I don't doctor no such damned cattle as them without money," and let the party go home. Notwithstanding this rebuff, this former patient had such faith in his ability to help out that he at once started the horseman back to the county seat with urgent demand that he come. Still the Doctor mentally diagnosed the case that the patient was not so very bad off. He put up several prescriptions and handed the truck to the party, and said, "Tell her to take it; perhaps it will cure her, perhaps it will kill her; give it to her." Inasmuch as the party was around in a few days, it was apparent that he exercised the physician's skill that healeth.

THE ONLY MULE THAT EVER MET DEATH.

A chattel mortgage was sent in an early day to an O'Brien county attorney. The mortgage was on two hogs and a mule. The poor homesteader in his dire distress in early times had eaten the hogs for pork in his family. The mule died. The attorney wrote his report to the company holding the note, "That chattel mortgages were hard for mules to understand. That the mule had lived in such daily fear of fatal results that it had died with grief and a broken heart. That it was the only mule that was ever known to die. That a mule withstood all other calamities, but a chattel mortgage with the people and the mule eaten out by grasshoppers had proved fatal." By that letter the attorney meant to break it gently that the debt was uncollectible.

JOKE ON A BANK CASHIER.

One early homesteader was having some trouble with the bank, trying to pay eighteen per cent. which was the going rate in those days. In that case it was quite a large sum. The banker made arrangements with the fellow, to have another bank take up his paper to save the question of usury being raised. In drawing up the closing agreement with the party and in part arranging for the matter with the other bank, an agreement in writing had to be drawn up. In drawing it up hurriedly, the bank cashier inadvertently

used this language: "That when the debtor," naming him, "did so and so," enumerating the conditions, that the "bank would hand over to him all the notes in the bank." Of course it could mean none other than Mr. Homesteader's notes in the bank. The notes belonged to the stockholders of the bank. However, the homesteader was considerably game, and he actually came into the bank with a written demand on the bank for the whole of the asset notes or bills receivable in the bank. This was an actual occurrence.

THE RATE OF INTEREST IMMATERIAL.

It was old-time settler Oliver M. Shonkwiler, among the earliest of the old timers. Mr. Shonkwiler has been of the hustling disposition, with a keen eye to the ultimate of O'Brien county land value, and which has developed right to him, he now holding some half dozen quarter sections of its high priced land. But in the early days he tumbled round much, with debts. That is, he carried these lands with debts in the first instance until he by his push paid it off. At one time when driven hard to meet a call for money in thus carrying a lump of land, he made application for a hand loan for a few months, but in a good sized sum. "Well," said the banker, "what rate of interest can you pay?" "That is not the question," said Mr. Shonkwiler. "I did not ask that question. What I asked was, Can I get the money?" Money then was eighteen per cent, so the joke can be appreciated.

TOWN OF ARCHER SUPERIOR TO OMAHA.

Several years ago the city of Omaha sent out its advertising train, showing up the superior facilities of Omaha as a market and city. The train made a stop at Archer. The score or more of Omaha representatives made their usual march up town. They were passing the Bank of Archer. John H. Archer called them into the bank. When they got through with their deliverance, Mr. Archer made his speech:

"Gentlemen," he said, "there are five points in which the town of Archer is ahead of Omaha: Archer never had a busted bank; Archer has not had one of its citizens in jail for five years; not a single citizen of Archer, or within its trading territory, is in the poor house; ninety-five per cent, of its citizens, and the patrons in its trading territory, are independent, and not only self-supporting, but have a good competence; a far greater per cent, of citizens in the trading territory of Archer can borrow five hundred dollars on their own note than can be found in Omaha. We invite Omaha to come to

Archer to live." Be it added that Mr. Archer could almost have made the application to the whole of O'Brien county.

O'BRIEN COUNTY IN THE HUMOROUS.

The following humorous and witty oration was prepared for and delivered by Master Wirt Close (twelve years of age), grandson of William King, an old homesteader on the southwest quarter of section 8, Highland township, at the old settlers' reunion held at Primghar September 2, 1909.

"I'm a pretty big small boy. I am twenty-four miles square. I'm not William Jennings Bryan, nor Mr. Dennis O'Brien, but I'm the original Irishman, O'Brien county himself.

"I'm a Democrat and believe in sixteen to one, so I have sixteen townships spread all over the county map.

"These trees were planted in 1878, in this court house square. I was planted here in O'Brien county on a homestead in 1871.

"I was born in a log court house before the war in 1860, down in Old O'Brien. Well, in fact, come to think of it, I was not born at all; I was just organized, and there was just seven votes at the election, when I was elected into a county. I'm like Topsy, I just growed, and here I am. I'm really getting to be some pumpkins, but when I got here in 1871-5—well, now maybe it was my folks who got here instead of me, but we got here somehow, in a covered wagon and a mule and a cow hitched together.

"Well, the first thing father did was to borrow five dollars at John Pumphrey's Bank and gave a chattel mortgage on the mule and the coffee mill, and, would you believe it, that mule died. The mortgage killed it, the first mule that was ever known to die.

"In them days it was all prairie grass and the roads went everywhere and anywhere right across the prairie. Father built a sod house and we twisted hay into stovewood to make a fire with. Father broke prairie sod and planted maple seed, and these trees are the corn crop from that maple seed.

"I gathered rosin weed gum from rosin weeds on the prairie, and there wasn't any nickel in the slot machine about that either. Instead of rolling around in automobiles, we rolled around in promissory notes and mortgages and debts and had a whale of a time. The whole farm got into a big county debt, but that was all paid off more than a year ago, so there's no use whining about that either. Life's too short to go on the grunt list. We have raised hogs and cattle and corn, and now we are raising the price of land. See?

Father kept right on breaking prairie and twisting hay, and mother got her cut flowers from the conservatory—wild sweet williams off the prairie.

"Well, when I was about twelve to fifteen years old, I had the measles and the mumps and the whooping cough and the grasshoppers. Them grasshoppers were frisky fellows. We dug ditches along the edges of the fields to keep them from jumping into the grain, and made a long board basin, pulled by a horse like a hayrake, and filled it with kerosene oil, to catch the pesky little critters. But they ate up the melon vines, the wheat and the oats, and, would you believe it, those saucy, impudent little grasshoppers, after they had eaten up all the wheat and the oats and corn, would sit on the fence in rows and wink their eyes, and actually squirt corn juice into father's face. But we got over the grasshoppers after all without the doctor having to put on a quarantine. We didn't need a quarantine then. The neighbors were two miles apart and no danger of catching the grasshoppers, and the nearest doctor was at Cherokee, and there didn't have to be any of us cut open for appendicitis either. But the grasshoppers all quit and the measles all ran away, and the hoppers went out of business.

"Then I commenced some real doin's. In 1872 and 1873 I built the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad, and on the road down I stuck down a shovel, and spaded up a few shovels full, and planted the town of Sheldon, and a right smart of a kid of a town it is today. Then I rested from railroad building for several years. I just simply held railroad meetings and licked out the grasshoppers.

"In 1878 I built the Milwaukee Railroad and lariatied Hartley and Sanborn out on the prairie, and built a round house. Then in 1881 I built the Northwestern Railroad, and staked out Paullina and Sutherland right in the prairie grass.

"Then, what do you think? Primghar got to squealing for a railroad, and I built the Illinois Central, and planted out Archer, Gaza, and Calumet. You must not laugh at Gaza, because land down there is worth one hundred and fifty dollars per acre all right. If you do not believe it, just go down to Gaza on one of their busy days and watch the big smoke stacks in their factories, and the wheels of commerce as they go round and round. And now just lately I built the Rock Island Railroad from the city of Moneta to Plessis.

"There was a time when the 'squatters' came into the county like the old homesteaders and we licked out the railroads, and showed them a thing or two, and the squatters went to raising land, growing it up to a big price just like other folks.

"I built a poor farm and a poor house. Any of you ever been there?

No? Well, the fact is, we can't hardly raise any poor people in O'Brien county, and the poor house boss has to go to raising corn and cattle and hogs just like other folks. I built one hundred and fifty school houses, and our boys and girls began to go to Ames, the best agricultural college in the United States.

"The maple seed kept on growing and we began to have shade trees, and we went to cutting wood instead of hay for fuel.

"Then I started the big county fair at Sutherland and will hold a session there every fall, which will make the folks down at Ames College know that we are raising cattle and cucumbers up here. We hold a big district fair at Sheldon every year, which got to be such a big affair that they took its secretary, Joe Morton, down to Sioux City to teach them fellers how O'Brien county does things.

"Then I planted apple seeds to show up the fruit deal, and went to building big houses all over the farms in the county, with hot water heating plants and wash bowls and all them other jim cracks in them, and began to shove the old homestead houses back into the back yards for chicken houses, and the chickens grew up into old hens, and the old hens laid eggs and we sold the eggs and raised hogs to eat more corn, to buy more land, to raise more corn to buy more land, to raise more hogs to buy more pianos and automobiles with. So I suppose we will keep right on raising land, and seven-dollar hogs, and sixty-cent corn and dollar wheat and one-hundred-dollar cows and two-hundred-dollar horses and ten-thousand-dollar boys like me. I have concluded to get married and settle down on a farm and be an Old Settler."

CHAPTER XXVI.

MISCELLANEOUS.

FARMERS' MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF O'BRIEN COUNTY.

This O'Brien county insurance company, the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Association, has developed into one of the substantial and permanent institutions of the county. It was established March 24, 1890, hence is just completing a quarter of a century. It has grown steadily as the county has increased in number of people and in numbers and value of insurable buildings and property. It has proved practical in that it has and is doing more fire and lightning insurance than any other one company now selling that class of insurance in the county, and also in that it does the service and furnishes a cheap insurance, which it is able to do, not having so many middle men and with its expenses reduced to the minimum. Its policy holders thus get their insurance at actual cost. Some of the best men in the county have been in the management. The people appreciate it, as is evidenced by the figures given below. It is distinctly one of the well established and historic county-wide institutions.

J. P. Martin was its first president for five years until 1895. S. B. Crosser, its present president, followed and has served nineteen years. Its three secretaries have served, respectively, L. T. Gates, twelve; C. L. Rockwell, seven, and Theodore Zimmerman, five years. Its three treasurers have served, respectively, L. S. Austin, two; H. P. Scott, seven, and John H. Archer, fifteen years. It has, in total, issued four million two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, measured by insurance values. It now has seventeen hundred outstanding living policies, and in total has issued six thousand nine hundred and ninety-six policies. Its average policy has been twenty-five hundred dollars. Its total losses paid since organization have been sixty-seven thousand three hundred and sixty-five dollars and eleven cents. Its cost per thousand dollars per annum has been one dollar and ninety-eight cents, or nineteen cents and eight mills per hundred dollars per annum. It perhaps would be true that some companies insuring the larger town properties and stocks of goods would exceed this company in total insurance, the insurance of this

company being largely issued on farm property. But therein lies still another item of safety and cheap insurance.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

We will here give a place for a brief mention of the present members in the Iowa State Legislature from these districts: Nicholas Balkema, state senator, of Sioux Center; Charles C. Cannon, representative of Paullina, state officials, present county officials and other items.

NICHOLAS BALKEMA.

Nicholas Balkema is the present state senator from this, the forty-ninth senatorial district, composed of the counties of Lyon, O'Brien, Sioux and Osceola. He was born in Gibbsville, Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, April 7, 1865, of Dutch parents. He attended the Gibbsville district school and afterwards graduated from the Sheboygan Falls high school. He moved to Newkirk, Iowa, in 1884. He taught school one year, and then started in the mercantile business at that place, running the postoffice in connection therewith. He sold out in 1894 and moved to Sioux Center, in Sioux county, Iowa, and continued the same business and in which he is still engaged. He also runs a clothing store at Paullina in our own county. He has been interested in banking matters, in which he was vice-president. He has served on the city council, and is president of the school board at Sioux Center, having served in that capacity for ten years. He is a member of the Dutch Reformed church. He was elected senator in 1908 and re-elected in 1912. He is a Republican in politics.

CHARLES C. CANNON.

Charles C. Cannon is the present representative from O'Brien county. He was born in Loudon county, Tennessee, June 28, 1862, of American parentage. He attended the University of Tennessee, from which he graduated in 1886. The same year he moved to Paullina, Iowa, where he engaged in the grain business, which occupation he follows at the present. He was married to Grace Jennings June 16, 1896, and his family consists of four girls. He is a member of the First Presbyterian church of Paullina, and a member of the Masonic lodge. He was elected representative in 1912. He is a Democrat in politics.

OFFICIALS OF O'BRIEN COUNTY IN 1913.

County auditor, J. B. Stamp; coroner, Milo Avery; clerk of courts, W. J. E. Thatcher; county treasurer, H. C. May; county recorder, Bessie J. Beers; county attorney, R. J. Locke; sheriff, H. W. Geister; superintendent of schools, J. J. Billingsly; supervisors, chairman, Peter Swenson, M. F. McNitt, W. C. Jackson, Ralph C. Jordan, William Strampe.

IOWA STATE OFFICIALS, 1913.

Governor, George W. Clark, Adel, Dallas county; lieutenant-governor, William L. Harding, Sioux City; secretary of state, William S. Allen, Fairfield, Jefferson county; auditor of state, John L. Bleakly, Ida Grove, Ida county; treasurer of state, William C. Brown, Clarion, Wright county; attorney-general, George Cosson, Audobon, Audobon county; clerk supreme court, Burgess W. Garrett, Leon, Decatur county; superintendent public instruction, Albert M. Deyoe, Garner, Hancock county; reporter supreme court, Wendell W. Cornwall, Spencer, Clay county; railroad commission, Clifford Thorne, Washington, Washington county; David J. Palmer, Washington, Washington county; N. S. Ketchum, Marshalltown, Marshall county; adjutant-general, Guy E. Logan, Red Oak, Montgomery county (appointed).

CITIZENS OF O'BRIEN COUNTY WHO HAVE SERVED IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

Osmond M. Barrett, of Sheldon, served in the House of Representatives of the state in the nineteenth Assembly in 1882, and in the State Senate in the twentieth, twenty-first, twenty-second and twenty-third General Assemblies in 1884, 1886, 1888 and 1890. In politics he is a Republican.

George W. Schee, of Primghar, served in the House of Representatives of the state in the twentieth and twenty-first General Assemblies in 1884 and 1886, and again in the thirty-third and thirty-fourth Assemblies in 1909 and 1911. Republican in politics.

E. F. Parkhurst, of Sheldon, served in the House of Representatives in the twenty-second General Assembly in 1888. Republican in politics.

Herbert B. Wyman, then of Sheldon, now of Des Moines, served in the House of Representatives in the 23rd General Assembly in 1890. Republican in politics.

John F. Hinman, of Primghar, served in the House of Representatives in the twenty-fourth General Assembly in 1892. Democrat in politics.

Ezra M. Brady, of Sanborn, served in the House of Representatives in

the regular session of the twenty-sixth General Assembly in 1896, and also in the long special session called together by the governor to enact, and which did enact, the Code of Iowa for 1897. Republican in politics.

Charles Youde, of Sutherland, served in the House of Representatives in the thirty-second General Assembly in 1907 and in the extra session of the same Legislature. Republican in politics.

George R. Whitmer, then of Primghar, now of Sioux City, served in the House of Representatives in 1906 and 1907, in the thirtieth and thirty-first Assemblies. Democrat in politics.

Charles C. Cannon served in the House of Representatives in the thirty-fifth General Assembly in 1913. Democrat in politics.

It might be here added that E. J. English, for several years superintendent of the Primghar high schools, and for many years a resident of Primghar and vicinity, served several terms in the House of Representatives in the state of South Dakota, from De Smet, Kingsbury county.

William H. Noyes, for four years sheriff and four years county recorder in O'Brien county, was likewise a member of the Minnesota Legislature for two terms.

CITIZENS OF O'BRIEN COUNTY WHO HAVE SERVED AS DISTRICT JUDGES.

Scott M. Ladd, of Sheldon, occupied the district court bench of the then fourth judicial district of Iowa from January 1, 1887, to January 1, 1897. Republican in politics.

William D. Boies, of Sheldon, now occupies a seat on the district bench in what is now the twenty-first judicial district of Iowa, by appointment of the Governor of Iowa, serving from January 1, 1913. Republican in politics.

CITIZENS OF O'BRIEN COUNTY WHO HAVE SERVED IN STATE OFFICES.

Scott M. Ladd, of Sheldon, who first served as above shown on the district bench of Iowa, was at the election held November 3, 1896, elected and elevated to the supreme court of Iowa, and has served continuously to the present time, and has served as chief justice of that court in rotation with its other members from year to year according to the rules of that body.

Edward C. Brown, of Sheldon, was elected November 3, 1901, and served as railroad commissioner of the state from January 1, 1902, to January 1, 1905. Republican in politics.

Edward C. Brigham, who was raised on a farm in Dale township, O'Brien county, served as state labor commissioner from January 1, 1902, to January 1, 1909, seven years.

OFFICIAL VOTE.

The following is the official vote at the general election for 1912 in O'Brien county, by townships:

	TAFT.	WILSON.	ROOSEVELT.	CHAFFIN.	DEBS.
Baker -----	17	61	66	--	--
Caledonia -----	9	90	36	--	--
Carroll -----	13	44	71	1	--
Center -----	29	65	53	1	2
Dale -----	7	38	67	1	--
Floyd -----	15	32	70	2	1
Franklin -----	55	113	216	1	9
Grant -----	17	56	62	2	--
Hartley -----	92	203	90	2	10
Highland -----	26	43	70	2	2
Liberty -----	19	79	78	--	1
Lincoln -----	11	2	50	--	1
Omega -----	25	121	36	2	--
Sheldon—					
First Ward -----	62	97	89	2	--
Second Ward -----	49	84	103	2	4
Third Ward -----	19	41	42	2	9
Summit -----	60	86	149	4	9
Union -----	54	138	154	3	--
Waterman -----	41	113	157	5	2
Totals -----	620	1,506	1,659	32	53

FOR CONGRESS.

Scott -----	1,020
Van Wagenen -----	1,375
Hallam -----	842

FOR GOVERNOR.

Clark -----	936
Dunn -----	1,623
Stevens -----	891

PRESIDENTIAL VOTE, 1908.

Taft -----	1,912
Bryan -----	1,326

POPULATION AND OTHER STATISTICS.

The following is the census for 1910 by towns and townships. The population of townships signifies the number outside the town within that township. Total population of county, 17,262.

Baker -----	442	Highland -----	690
Caledonia -----	826	Liberty -----	643
Carroll -----	403	Calumet -----	242
Archer -----	351	Lincoln -----	494
Center -----	629	Omega -----	586
Dale -----	633	Moneta -----	44
Floyd -----	571	Summit -----	502
Sheldon -----	2,941	Primghar -----	733
Franklin -----	500	Union -----	605
Sanborn -----	1,174	Paullina -----	796
Grant -----	666	Waterman -----	537
Hartley Tp. -----	484	Sutherland -----	664
Hartley Town -----	1,106		

MILES OF RAILROAD BUILT.

Milwaukee road, built in 1878-----	24.08 miles
Sioux City road, built in 1872-----	6.55 "
Illinois Central road, built in 1887-----	26.73 "
Northwestern road, built in 1881-----	25.21 "
Rock Island road, built in 1900-----	13.22 "

Total mileage -----	95.70 miles
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Males in county-----	9,008
Females in county-----	8,254

Total population of county, 1910-----	17,262
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Number of voters-----	4,846
Number of dwellings in county-----	3,600
Number of families in county-----	3,656
Farms on which live native Americans only-----	1,127
Farms on which foreign languages are spoken in part-----	700

Total farms in county-----	1,827
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Acres of land in county.....	363,860
Acres actually in farming.....	327,809
Total value of farms.....	\$40,380,379
Value of the land without buildings.....	31,170,886
Value of all buildings, farm and town.....	13,754,540
Value of farm machinery.....	965,270
Value of domestic animals.....	3,622,491
Square miles in county.....	569
Population per square mile in whole county.....	30.3
Farm population per square mile.....	25.2

DOMESTIC ANIMALS, 1913.

Cattle	47,722
Horses	13,972
Mules	136
Hogs	83,105
Sheep	22,624
Poultry	184,005
Hives of bees.....	807

COMPARISON OF FIVE YEARS' EXPENDITURES ON COUNTY FUND.

1908	\$28,172.49
1909	28,769.30
1910	27,206.48
1911	31,629.28
1912	26,954.85

EXPENDITURES FOR 1912 ON COUNTY FUND.

County Auditor's Office.....	\$ 2,566.49
County Treasurer's Office.....	2,189.35
Clerk District Court and Office.....	2,565.80
County Recorder's Office.....	1,781.93
Sheriff's Office	1,946.05
Superintendent of Schools and Office.....	1,961.76
County Attorney and Office.....	1,202.14
George J. Smith, Supervisor.....	153.45
Peter Swenson, Supervisor.....	160.45

W. C. Jackson, Supervisor.....	106.10
M. F. McNutt, Supervisor.....	150.10
Ralph C. Jordan, Supervisor.....	169.75
Official Printing	1,417.35
Assessments and Supplies.....	2,215.85
Bounties on Scalps.....	79.10
Township Officers	580.20
Boards of Review.....	52.00
Primary Election Expense.....	1,056.77
General Election Expense.....	1,468.60
District Court Expenses.....	1,557.14
Justice's Court Expenses.....	145.50
Coroner's Court Expenses.....	50.04
Grand Jury Expense.....	189.30
Court House	1,734.85
Jail	371.40
School Books	1,183.38
Total on County Fund.....	\$26,954.85

EXPENDITURES ON OTHER FUNDS.

Road Fund Expense.....	\$ 1,973.10
Bridge Fund	26,120.05
Teacher's Institute Expense.....	376.90
Farmer's Institute Expense.....	75.00
Soldier's Relief Fund.....	294.50
Damages for Domestic Animals.....	322.11
Insane Fund	6,117.25
Feeble Minded Institute Fund, Seven Pupils.....	120.41
	\$35,399.32

As will be seen, this foots up an aggregate of \$62,354.17 as the total cost of running all branches of the county for one year. We have selected the year 1912 rather than 1913 in showing up expenditures, for the reason that it is the even numbered year, and includes the expenses of the primary and general elections. The bridge fund expresses the amount of internal improvements.

CEMETERIES.

The sacred dead now sleeping in the cemeteries throughout the county represent much of the history of which we write. Indeed, in another fifty-eight years most of those now living in this county will have joined the great majority. Measuring the county alone by its numbers, this is not yet true. Our cemeteries have grown in beauty as the county has improved. In each town, ample provisions are made for their care. Local organizations and the state laws each contribute. The prairie soil has given way to the blue grass lawn and cemetery decoration. No other item better illustrates that high-grade development in the county measured by the sympathies of the heart, reverence for all that belongs to the good, the true and the beautiful, in all that belongs to the moral and sacred, than the well-kept and decorated cemeteries in each of our towns. We honor the sacred dust. They represent much of the now substantial moral and civilized standards and conditions in the county.

THE HERD LAW.

In reading the political papers the last few years, one would think that the referendum was a new question. O'Brien county, however, resorted to the referendum under the law of Iowa as early as 1874. Section 309 of the Code of 1873 (same as section 444 of the present Code) provided that the board of supervisors of O'Brien county might submit to the voters of the county the question: "Shall stock be restrained from running at large?" On July 11, 1874, the board of supervisors submitted that question to the voters, to be voted on at the election to be held the following October, 1874. At the election there were two hundred and seventy-nine votes cast on that question, of which two hundred and forty votes were in favor of the proposition and thirty-nine against same. After the election it was declared by the board adopted. It is one historic case where the early pioneers acted in referendum, and made the law for the county on this question. The resolution ordering the vote to be taken will be found in Supervisor's Record No. 1, on page 400, and the canvass of the vote and declaration of its adoption will be found in the same record on page 422.

A QUARTET SONG OF COUNTIES.

The four northwest counties of Iowa sing a quartet in unison. Its land all lays gently rolling. There is no waste. It is all the same. God only

made land on one occasion. He made it solid. It can't blow away. They can't steal it. They can't burn it up. Its soil is all the genuine black loam stuff. It is all as good as a government bond. It beats the earth. In fact it is part of the earth. It is uniform in all respects. Many of its whole sections of six hundred and forty acres could be plowed as one land by team or engine gang-plow outfit. Therefore, here's to the Big Four counties with this rhyming couplet for a song by the quartet:

Osceola, Lyon,
Sioux County and O'Brien.

RELATIONS WITH CHEROKEE COUNTY OF O'BRIEN CITIZENS.

We should make note of the peculiar relations with Cherokee county of the early citizens, especially of the south half of our county, in the pioneer days. The county commencing its earliest settlements in the south part of county, brought this about. For instance, Mordecai Vandercook, one of the very early merchants in Cherokee, was almost a homesteader and citizen of O'Brien county, at least in sentiment and memory of its people. Clark Green had not the capital to carry or supply the credit of groceries and supplies necessary. Mr. Vandercook, like Clark Green, dished out his merchandise with over-generosity. With a heart that could not withstand the piteous appeals, he lost more or less money. The earliest homesteaders all had a good word for him. The Allison store there also performed a like, though lesser, part. The older physicians, like Dr. E. Butler, who represented Cherokee in the Legislature at the same time with George W. Schee in 1884, and Dr. Hornibrook, were household names in this county and were called to the sick bed in hundreds of occasions in the more dangerous cases, and for consultation and on actual practice, in long, tedious midnight rides. Its attorneys, E. C. Herrick, J. D. F. Smith, A. R. Molyneux and Robert McCulla, of the later attorneys, and Eugene Cowles and Judge Charles H. Lewis, of the earlier bar, have in their times become a familiar part of the O'Brien county bar. The earlier settlers were also financially accommodated on many occasions in the early days by Scribner & Burroughs, W. A. Sanford and T. S. Steele & Son. The movements of our citizens in business and trade have been more toward Cherokee from all the east and south parts, than toward the other counties. The vicinity of Sheldon has had more of like situations with Henry Hospers and Mr. Van Oustenhout, of Sioux county, or H. L. Emmert, of Osceola county, and other conditions in those counties.

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE.

There have been during the period of forty years, in one shape and another, some six or seven sets of abstracts of title. John R. Pumphrey commenced the first set about 1869. S. A. Sage made part of a set a few years later. Cyrus McKay, of Decorah, Iowa, made a set in 1875. From this set J. L. E. Peck made a new set in 1889, later owned by C. S. Cooper & Co. E. Y. Royce made a set about 1890 to that date, but which have not been in use for many years. Warren Walker commenced a set about 1876. He went into the minutia and details of records more than any abstracter ever in the county. His set was rather over elaborate, and some of his details have since been omitted. Mr. Walker made plats of all towns and even copies of judgments, and a duplicate system of the abstracts itself which was found unnecessary. The following persons have at one time and another owned one or more of above sets and done abstract work: John R. Pumphrey, George W. Schee, Clinton E. Achorn, J. L. E. Peck, George R. Slocum, Frank A. Turney, Warren Walker, Isaac W. Daggett, Cyrus McKay, H. E. Thayer, S. O. Reese, Frank B. Royce, E. Y. Royce, S. A. Sage, W. W. Artherholt, Clarence W. Ingham, J. F. Boyer, Henry Rerick, Kenneth Rerick and F. L. Herrick. The E. Y. Royce set is now owned by his son, Frank B. Royce, but not in active use. The Warren Walker set is owned and conducted by Frank L. Herrick & Company. Henry Rerick & Son now own each of the other sets named. The business is now, therefore, centered down to the two active sets owned and conducted, one by F. L. Herrick & Company, and the other by Henry Rerick & Son, both at Primghar. Each of these two sets as now conducted contains a complete abstract of title to every tract of land, large and small, in the county, including town and suburban lots, and showing every deed, mortgage or other instrument affecting the several tracts, all systematically arranged for quick and ready reference.

EZRA M. BRADY, MEMBER OF BOARD—AN EARLY INCIDENT.

During one of the county-seat contests and during the session of the board while holding the hearing or canvass, it seemed necessary to procure quickly some affidavits of some parties then working just south of Sibley. Mr. Brady started overland in the afternoon for Sheldon, procured a hand-car, and, though he weighed two hundred and fifty pounds, he actually pumped that hand car from Sheldon to Ashton, procured a notary public there, and thence on to or near where these parties were working, got their

affidavits and presented them before the board of supervisors the following morning as the board assembled in the middle of a contest then going on. On any ordinary occasion he would not have attempted such a transportation problem of thirty miles on a hand car.

A BIG STRETCH OF JUSTICE OF THE PEACE JURISDICTION IN THE COUNTY.

This incident occurred with, or rather happened to, George Hardin in Highland township, one of the old homesteaders in an early day. It was during those years when there was plenty of pasturage in the summer, that a bunch of nonresident cattle owners freely grazed their cattle over the township until cold weather. They gave their names as Hartley brothers. They made a bargain with Mr. Hardin to winter about one hundred and fifty head of cattle through the winter on his corn stalks and corn feeding. In the spring Hartley brothers came on for their cattle. Mr. Hardin was absent from home. They made demand of the wife and hired man, and were refused. Mr. Hardin would have had a lien for his pay. They saw the advantage of his absence. They went before a justice of the peace in another part of the county, as a replevin suit can be brought in any justice court in the county, swore to a petition of replevin, and put up a straw bond, with one of their herders on the bond, which of necessity was no good. The justice should have known that he had no jurisdiction in the case, but he did not, it seemed. Here was this large herd of cattle, worth all the way from fifteen to twenty and twenty-five dollars per head. They were worth more than two thousand dollars. A justice has jurisdiction only up to a value of one hundred dollars. But with all that gall and self-assurance, they took the justice off his feet when taken unawares, and actually persuaded the justice to issue a writ of replevin for all those cattle and placed the writ in the hands of a constable for service. The constable should also have known that no such writ was good. He found it out a few days after. It was all done so quickly, and Mr. Hardin absent, that by the time he got back the cattle were outside the county and beyond the jurisdiction of even the district court, shipped, gone no one knew where, and probably out of the state.

THE HAY TWISTER.

The county being almost entirely prairie, the fuel question was an important matter. Early settlers had no money with which to buy coal. But necessity became the mother of invention. The rich prairie soil produced

grass from one to five feet high. This hay grass supplied the fuel. This item was indeed a boon to the settler and supplied free grass hay and pasture. Many a man and most settlers could thus raise some stock, supply their own meat, butter and milk and market a little. The term "hay twister" was then familiar. Indeed every old homesteader became known as a "hay twister," and took pride in that rustic epithet.

This hay twisting machine was a simple device. The loose hay must first be twisted or pressed into compact form to retain heat. This simple machine consisted of an ordinary frame, with two uprights about three feet high. In the top of these uprights was attached a crank and cross rod; the crank turned and the hay spun on the rod like yarn is spun, and in a moment a quite solid stick of hay, or wood, is made. These hay twisters became so expert, that many made them simply by hand. These sticks were corded up in cords like wood in the barns or sheds, and would last about like cobs. But as hay was free and the labor the only question, and as this labor could be done in the winter, it proved very practical. It was claimed that a man with a hay stack could in a day twist more hay, that would last longer, than he could chop wood with the logs at hand. But as there were no logs save a few on the Waterman, and as coal was out of the question, and had to be hauled after being paid for from Cherokee or Fort Dodge, it was either twist hay or freeze, and a very comfortable alternative. Sheet iron stoves were soon made expressly for the purpose. One inventive genius actually worked on a patent on a device that would thus twist the hay direct from the hay stack into the stove, but as he forgot one material item, namely, that such a device left a dangerous haystack in too close proximity, and liable to burn up house and all, that it did not become practical. It was also found that in the winter time this settler could go out into a slough, where the tall grass stuck above the ice, and, with a horse hitched to a long heavy board, could soon scrape tons of dead grass from above the ice, and twist it into fuel in this way.

In 1877, one amusing political fight was made on Judge A. H. Willits, who was a candidate for re-election as clerk of courts, namely, that he had got so all-fired tony, that he was actually burning coal for fuel, and that the poorer hay twister of a candidate should be voted for.

He twisted this hay-twisted twist with his fist,
This wrist twisting, fist twisting, hay-twisted twist,
He twisted so hard by his jerks—you big liar,
He twisted that hay stack right into the fire.

O'BRIEN COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Section 1660 of the Code of Iowa provides for the establishment of a county fair in each county of the state complying with the law, which when the conditions are complied with entitles it to receive sundry state relations and aids. Definite steps were taken at Sutherland at a public meeting held in Peterson hall August 17, 1887, with Dr. J. C. Bonham, chairman, and Bert Hamilton, secretary. Committees were appointed on incorporation, grounds and premiums. Mesdames C. N. Cass, F. L. Bidwell, S. A. Crosser, H. C. Kelsey, Silas Steele, H. A. Peck and J. C. Bonham were elected its first board of directors. Articles of incorporation were at once drafted and recorded and stock subscribed in the aggregate of one thousand dollars, in shares of ten dollars each. A charter was procured running twenty years. On August 28th of the same year Dr. J. C. Bonham was elected its first president and C. E. Achorn, secretary. While the law only requires the purchase of ten acres, twenty acres was purchased of Nicholas Lutzell, just north of the city. As an instance of rapid, enterprising labor and effort of a united town, though much was to be contended with, on October 5 and 6, 1887, just forty-nine days after the first meeting relating to it, the society held its first county fair. The charter was renewed December 21, 1907. During this long period the society has held highly commendable fairs every year but one. At the last fair held in 1913 from four to five thousand people were in attendance, which indicates that in an agriculture community interest will not be lost in a county fair.

The following men have held office and worked for the interest of the society, which has once each year brought these hundreds of people to Sutherland: C. N. Cass, Bert Hamilton, H. A. Peck, T. B. Bark, E. J. Elliott, W. P. Davis, R. C. Jordan, W. S. Hitchings, R. M. Van Horn, Charles Youde, J. C. Briggs, S. B. Crosser, J. B. Murphy, A. C. Bailey, L. J. Price, John Slick, H. P. Scott, F. L. Bidwell, Alex Martin, and many others.

COUNTY SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

His name was Adam Towberman. The office was never filled but once. The code of Iowa provides for it. It was April 7, 1880. There had been considerable discussion in the papers complaining of certain scales in the county. At all events Adam Towberman applied to the board of supervisors

for appointment. He was appointed. Neither Mr. Towberman nor the board quite took in the significance of it until it was under way, as practically applied. A full set of weights and measures was purchased at a cost of one hundred and thirty dollars. When they arrived they weighed a ton or more, being test weights for all classes of scales. The law provides fees for each test made. He applied it to every merchant or public place handling articles to be weighed. Mr. Towberman started out with team and weights over the county from town to town. The owners of scales resented it as an interference, especially the fees, though not large. They thought he made more of it than the needs warranted. The news of his coming preceded him and it became a joke. At one big store in Sheldon, he started in to carrying in his big weights into one door and the clerks proceeded to carry them back around another door, and put them back into his wagon. They kept him packing weights and measures until he saw what was going on. He made but one round trip of the county. From his own standpoint it was impracticable.

WHAT BECAME OF FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND FEET OF LUMBER.

In the year 1873 Herman Greve, a large lumber dealer and mill owner in Wisconsin, shipped to John R. Pumphrey, Sheldon, Iowa, four hundred thousand feet of culls or secondary lumber from his mills. He expected Mr. Pumphrey to sell it out in the starting up of the new town Primghar. For some reason the train bringing the lumber sidetracked the cars containing it on a siding a mile north of Sheldon. This required an overland haul of nearly twenty miles to Primghar. It was during those years when help and supplies were distributed to the settlers. At all events it got noised abroad among the homesteaders that there was free lumber there for distribution. Pumphrey did not get on the ground quick enough, and did not land his lumber fast enough, and the result was that only about one hundred thousand feet ever arrived in Primghar. Some of this lumber went into the first court house built, and into sundry private dwellings. It was for many years a dispute between Pumphrey and Greve who should lose the lumber, and never was settled. Greve lost it.

THE HIGHEST POINT IN IOWA.

What is the highest point in Iowa, is very much like the question of "Who killed Cock Robin?" The "International Encyclopaedia," on the ques-

tion of the topography of Iowa, says: "Iowa lies entirely within the great central prairie belt. Its surface is a plateau with an average height of one thousand feet in the northwestern corner of the state, the highest point being Primghar, in O'Brien county."

This, however, is still in dispute. Even the official reports do not agree. The town of Alta claims that Alta is an abbreviation of the word altitude and was so named because it is the highest point in the state. The visitor at Lake Okoboji is shown and taken to the "highest point in Iowa," on the elevation just west of Miller's bay on a part of that lake, where a cupola is built costing perhaps fifty dollars.

The "Official Register of Iowa," an official document issued by the state, gives the following altitudes in this part of Iowa: Primghar, 1,498; Paullina, 1,412; Hartley, 1,458; Sibley, 1,512; Cherokee, 1,205; Des Moines, 805; Alta, 1,513; Sheldon, 1,415; Sutherland, 1,428; Spirit Lake, 1,458; Sioux City, 1,009; Ft. Dodge, 1,126; Council Bluffs, 990.

This gives it to Alta by one foot, Sibley being next. It all, however, simply means that northwestern Iowa is at the head waters of the streams in the state and hence, as a truism, northwestern Iowa is the highest point in the state. It also means that we are "up on high," with good dry land, and not in the gulf marsh. Our land is all real land. We have in actual acres in the county 363,860, and of these acres 327,800 are in actual cultivation, with the rest good pasture. This would place Primghar as the highest point in the county, but not in the state.

O'BRIEN COUNTY AND ITS DISTRICTS AND CONGRESSMEN.

O'Brien county was in the second congressional district from 1860, the date of its organization, until 1863. From 1863 to 1873 in the sixth, from 1873 to 1883 in the ninth, and from 1883 until the present time in the elephantine eleventh district, so called because it was the largest. In fact, the northwest part of the state being the last to settle up, the district in which O'Brien has been has always been the largest district at the times named in the state. It will be observed that O'Brien's first representative in Congress resided at Dubuque. The following is the list with their addresses at time: William Vandever, Dubuque, 1860-63; Asahel W. Hubbard, Sioux City, 1863-69; Charles Pomeroy, Fort Dodge, 1869-71; Jackson Orr, Boone, 1871-75; Addison Oliver, Onawa, 1875-79; Cyrus C. Carpenter, Fort Dodge, 1879-83; Isaac S. Struble, Lemars, 1883-91; George D. Perkins, Sioux City, 1891-

99; Lot Thomas, Storm Lake, 1899-05; Elbert H. Hubbard, Sioux City, 1905-12; George C. Scott, Sioux City, 1912-14. Elbert Hubbard died June 4, 1912, and George C. Scott was appointed by the governor of Iowa to fill the vacancy until election. On November 5, 1912, he was elected both for the unexpired term, and also for the present full term. The present eleventh congressional district is composed of Buena Vista, Cherokee, Clay, Dickinson, Ida, Lyon, Monona, O'Brien, Osceola, Plymouth, Sac, Sioux and Woodbury counties.

PREHISTORIC FORTIFICATIONS AND BURIAL MOUNDS.

It may not be generally known that there are definite evidences of prehistoric burial mounds and fortifications in O'Brien county. They are to be found in Grant and Waterman townships. The old homesteaders years ago were aware of them. Indeed, an atlas issued in 1911, and now in many homes in the county, show them up in part. However, they are more extensive and found in more places in the county than there set out. Frank W. Martin and Curtis L. Rockwell, ex-member of the board of supervisors, and each of Highland township, have made more specific study perhaps of the question than any other citizens in the county. Mr. Rockwell has even gone into it so far as to make considerable of a collection of relics gathered from the fortifications and burial mounds, made up of specimens of pottery, specimens of stone implements and other articles on which the handiwork of man had left its impress, which collection he presented to and is on exhibition in the Quaker school building on section 31 in Highland township. We gather these items mainly from Frank W. Martin, now residing in Highland and who homesteaded in 1871. He points out five different and definite prehistoric fortifications and three different burial mounds or ranges of mounds. The fortifications are found, one near the east line of section 22, in Grant, on Waterman creek, and while not as plain as the others, yet shows distinct evidences of excavations and pits, with pottery and other items. A second fortification is found right at the west end of the Cleghorn bridge, in that township, the road running right through the fort or fortifications. The third and most important of the fortifications is to be found on the northwest quarter of section 11, in Waterman township, on the farm of Jacob Wagoner, covering about an acre, in the form of a square, with an open entrance way on each of the four sides, the earthworks forming a very plain and distinct four square. The fourth is found on section 23, in Waterman, not far from

the Waterman Siding, on the farm of Henry Braunschweig. The last and fifth of the forts is found about a stone's throw east of the iron bridge on Mr. Innes' farm in Waterman township. This fifth is nearly equal to the third above named, and shows very plain embankments or earth works for defense.

It is plain from the above that these mounds are at least prehistoric to O'Brien county recorded history. We see that the authorities in other states and counties differ as to the dates of origin of these earthworks, and even as to their purpose. Some authorities limit them to the Indian, other authorities date them back into the thousands of years and even into the stone age. Also some good authorities conclude that these earthwork squares were but places of worship for ceremonies of a religious nature and not as a means of defense. We will leave that question for the archaeologist to settle. If for defense, then certain it would be they were made by a people who had enemies, and who probably in their methods of fighting went further than the poor Indian, in merely in a sly manner getting to his enemy. These evidences of pottery and stone implements and relics are to be found in the earth below the top soil in places. They are, of course, much like similar earth works found in many places in the country, and perhaps not so pronounced or on so large a scale as have been found in other places and other states. It is probable they are not to be found in any other townships than Grant and Waterman. This is the only part of the county where may be found timbered streams and rugged hills in the county, the natural places to make a stand in fighting, as would be expected of such people.

BURIAL MOUNDS.

As stated, we find three distinct evidences and all in these townships. One series or ridge of these mounds may be found on the north half of the southeast quarter of section 23, just a little to the northeast of the junction of the Waterman and Little Sioux in Waterman township, on Loui Hill's farm. In one of these mounds in 1882 Frank W. Martin dug up a skeleton, evidently buried in a sitting posture. It bore evidence of being a young person, as the jaw bone had one new tooth pushing up an older one. The second and most extensive mounds, however, may be found just north of this on the same section on the farm of Charles J. Webb. Here are found mounds from six feet in height down to quite small ones, the ridge of same running somewhat irregular and extending fifty rods or more. A third

series of like mounds may be found on section 18, in Brooks township, Buena Vista county, on the farm of William Brooks.

In this township is found what Mr. Martin terms the sort of capital of these people, a high elevation. Here was found a stone cooking stone, twelve inches in diameter, finely polished in the upper parts. This stone is in the hands of J. F. Hate, the brother-in-law of Mr. Martin, and residing in Brooks township. Several smaller burial mounds are also found in Brooks township.

Some have disputed the fact that buffaloes ever roamed in northwestern Iowa. Mr. Martin states that he has found numerous buffalo bones and wallows. Especially is he certain of this in the fact of the wide skull and the fact that the horns were black clear through and yielded to a fine black polish. He found one horn in particular in an early day on the present site of Hartley where street excavations were being made.

THREE BRICK SCHOOL HOUSES IN GRANT TOWNSHIP.

It was singular that three brick school buildings were erected in Grant township in the very earliest days, when most of the school buildings in the county were but sort of shacks, like the homestead shanties. Before the people quite got on their feet, or quite knew what was going on, the school board of Grant township, about 1868, actually built three brick school buildings, each about twenty by thirty feet in size, of soft brick. On the east line of section 34 one of the three buildings was located, and known as the Wiard school house. A second one was built about eighty rods north of the present Jordan school house on section 30. A third brick was built on section 24 and known as the Rowland school house. Still a fourth brick school house was built in the same way at Old O'Brien. It was said that these school houses in fact cost the townships and boards four thousand dollars each, or quite out of proportion to the cost ideas of the early settlers, and caused more or less politics. They were voted into school bonds and, like the old county debt, finally paid off.

SCHOOL CEREMONY OVER COTTONWOOD TREES.

It was at the Wiard school house in 1871 that Frank W. Martin was the teacher and Ralph C. Jordan, the present member of the board of supervisors, and his brother, Clay P. Jordan, cashier of Jordan's Bank in Sutherland, and

Byram Higbee and a son of Mr. Titus were pupils, that a cottonwood tree was planted by these boys and the teacher, as a part of school study and doings. Later on in years the cattle all but destroyed it. Four sprouts sprung up from the roots and grew some years, and were again nearly destroyed, leaving two sprouts or trees growing together, and which are still living.

CURIOUS INDIAN INCIDENT.

Mrs. Lottie Butler, now a lady about seventy years of age, and still residing at Peterson, and the widow of the late Dr. M. S. Butler, one of the early-day physicians of Cherokee, and who made many scores of trips to O'Brien county as a physician, and well remembered by all the early homesteaders, in 1856 was Miss Lottie Kirchner and then a little girl twelve years of age. She was the sister of Jacob, August and John Kirchner, and a daughter of the elder Christian Kirchner, one of the very oldest of Clay county residents. Mr. Waterman lived on the O'Brien county side of the line.

The little colony at Peterson consisted of but a few families. The awful massacre of 1857 at Spirit Lake was enough to rouse up all sorts of feelings. Indeed, the Indians who perpetrated that awful outrage passed by and stopped at the home of Mr. Waterman, as stated in his narrative, and also stopped at Peterson on their trail up from Smithland to Spirit Lake at that time. The people of Peterson were rather disposed to treat the Indian from the hostile standpoint. Mr. Waterman was rather the opposite and disposed to open up communication with him and parley at times. An Indian was seen near Mr. Waterman's and Mr. Waterman, using the sign language, talked with him. The Peterson people heard of it. Miss Lottie was over to Waterman's and expressed surprise that he would even speak to one, and said, "Why, Mr. Waterman, didn't you shoot him with your gun?" "Why," said Mr. Waterman, "I wouldn't kill an Indian any quicker than I would kill your two brothers." Lottie went back home and, in a child way, reversed the statement, and said that Mr. Waterman said that "he would kill her two brothers just as quick as he would kill an Indian." The idea some way got quite set that Mr. Waterman was in cahoots or in sympathy with the Indians, and all hands were construing how much child truth she was telling in her innocence. Indeed, the real explanation was not put together for many years. At all events at the time it roused up some real sentiment at Peterson against Mr. Waterman.

AN EARLY CANDIDATE TAKEN UNAWARES.

On one occasion, in an early day, at a county convention of the Green-back party, to which many old homesteaders belonged, Huse Woods, one of the earliest settlers in Waterman township, was a delegate. A candidate for the Legislature on the Republican ticket unwittingly allowed himself to be present, not dreaming of being called upon. Mr. Woods was much of a wit and politician, though he never sought office himself. Mr. Woods saw his point. He rose very seriously in the convention and stated that there was a candidate of the opposition party present, a candidate for the Legislature. That he believed in fair play, and that the voters of the county should hear from all the candidates from all sides. He moved the convention to call upon this candidate and give him an opportunity to state all those many questions he would urge and advocate in the Legislature, that would be of special interest to the people of O'Brien county, if he was elected to that body. The candidate was taken unawares. He managed to timidly get onto his feet, the convention cheering loudly, and began to stammer that "he did not know of any particular question that would specially interest O'Brien county." "That's all we want of you," shouted Mr. Woods. "Can it be possible that a citizen of even all this northwest Iowa would confess to such ignorance?" "Do you think, sir," Mr. Woods continued, "that the people and citizenship of O'Brien county, and of the other counties in this district, desire to send down to Des Moines to the greatest parliamentary body in the state, a man who has no opinions of his own, and who confesses that he has no knowledge of any question to urge before the legislature that would interest his fellow citizens?" It was a climax. The candidate perhaps could have made a speech and reply a week later, but it was too late. It was fatal. Another O'Brien county candidate took the county delegation and a candidate from one of the other counties was elected.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS.

The prairie chickens were untamed and untamable. They were not simply in scores, but in thousands in O'Brien county. The county was not noted for wild game, but the prairies were peculiarly adapted to this one fowl or bird. He absolutely would not be domesticated. Every flutter of nerve or wing or body said "Let me escape." Like the prairie grass which was his only shelter, he lost out. He was the earliest settler in the county, but lost his homestead. He could not stand civilization. But few remain. They were

all of the same speckled gray color, no comb, nerry, would literally exhaust themselves when caught, and were very rapid in flight. Unlike wild geese and ducks, the prairie chicken did have a habitat. But that habitation was the broad expanse of a township without a boundary. They were all about the same size, with never a variation of color or mark, weight about three to four pounds. This bird seemed in utter abandon and careless with its nest and eggs and even the chicks but a few days old started out at once as wild, going everywhere. Its nesting and hatching period was May and June. The nest was a meager few dozen blades of grass, beaten down on the ground in the midst of the growing grass, ten to sixteen eggs in a nest. Even on the native prairie these eggs were at the mercy of their neighbors, the wolves and gophers. The breaking plow on prairie sod turned up and destroyed many. The roosters all had large, yellow throats, which, when extended or stretched, did the crowing stunt. It was not a crow, however, but rather a sort of sound no one could spell or pronounce, a little like the vowel sound "Oo," prolonged. These roosters during nesting time in spring stood in scores along a prairie ridge, all Oo-ing, and were quite military and grand. They were easily caught by a figure-four trap, or one of lath, six feet square, with drop doors that would swing in but not out, one of these traps often corralling a dozen at a time, with corn for inducement. They seemed to have no cunning, but fear intense. The writer on one occasion, during a month in winter, thus caught sufficient in number, by cutting simply the breast meat from each side, salted them, then hung on little hooks, and dried them like dried beef, and filled a four-gallon jar. They were fine. They helped out the homesteader much, as he could trap them without cost of ammunition. The shooting of them on the wing was fine recreation for the sportsmen, with setter or pointer dog to stir them from the tall grass. Many sports from the cities east made much in early times in a three days or weeks outing on these jungles of O'Brien county, as they were then called. During the days of court, the judge and nearly every attorney had his gun. He was a noble little bird, game, alert, ready for action, but, like the prairie sod, he went with it. He had the nobility of an Indian in proportion to his size. The sportsman admired his gamey movements and flight.

OTHER GAME.

As we have remarked, O'Brien county can not be said to be or have been noted for its game. What little there was was, as set out by John McCormack, confined to a small territory down on the Little Sioux and Waterman,

where were found small fringes of timber, but, like the prairie chicken and prairie grass, now extinguished. The county now has practically no game. The migratory ducks and geese and other birds can hardly be said to belong to O'Brien county. The quails have immigrated in and settled, as the groves grew for their protection. They did not belong to the wild prairie. Companies of "sports" have at times organized in some towns, or as against other towns, choosing sides for the suppers, to test the killing of the largest number of gray squirrels injuring the corn. At one bout between Primghar and Hartley about 1884 they jointly killed thirty-five hundred. However, they can hardly be called game, but rather classed as pests. The county in the years 1872-76 offered a bounty of five, then seven, then ten cents, for gopher scalps. It reached, however, a sort of scandal stage. The argument made was to protect the fields of the homesteader, but so many brought them in, and whatever the truth may have been, it became the joke that the whole gopher hide was often cut up into scalps, and by the time they got officially in all its gopher solemnity before County Auditor A. J. Edwards, they smelled so bad and in such condition, as to bring out his "dod blame it, boys," that he couldn't scientifically determine scalp from sliced hide, and all had to be counted. It soon smacked so loud of graft, to divvy up on county warrants; that it had to be shut off. It lasted four years, but those years were long referred to as jointly the "gopher scalp" and "grasshopper" years. The gopher scalp bounty sort of evened up the grasshopper ravages. But all this is perhaps aside from the game of the real sportsman. Migratory birds have followed in the years, but not many game birds or animals are found at this date, except the jack rabbit or an occasional wolf, mink, lynx, beaver or perhaps a few other animals. The streams being few, and not a single lake of any size, fishing is but a lost art in the county. We will make note of the few earlier large game in the note below on the one noted hunter of the county, John McCormack.

JOHN M'CORMACK, A NOTED HUNTER.

John McCormack was the most noted hunter of wild game ever in the county. He was born in Rush county, Indiana, February 15, 1834. He first came west to Waverly when a young man, and to O'Brien county in 1873. Though he came during the years of the homesteader influx, he bought his land of the Iowa Falls & Sioux City Railroad, which was, in fact, part of the real Illinois Central grant. He bought at five dollars per acre. He first opened up a hotel in Old O'Brien, but the doings going on there soon

disgusted him and he settled on his farm in Waterman township, and continued there in all its period of pioneer life, until, but a few years ago, in his old age, he retired and now (1913) is still alive at the grand old age of seventy-nine, a hale, well-preserved man. He belongs to the school of the simple life, of baked beans and venison. He is perhaps the one and only man in the county who for a long series of years actually farmed, and at same time in real earnest shot and captured his own wild meat. The county being almost entirely prairie, around and near Old O'Brien and his farm was the only natural place in the county for the large game. Mr. McCormack in his time, and within the limits of that part of the county, killed and dressed over two hundred deer. In fact, as he states, he actually made a good living, while everybody else was being eaten up by grasshoppers, by selling the venison at Cherokee, Sioux City and Fort Dodge and shipping the hides. He also captured and trapped his full share of beaver and other animals for the fur. Wolves were plentiful, and a wolf scalp called for a bounty from the county. It is probable that not a single deer could now be found in the county even by so expert a hunter as Mr. McCormack. Game of the larger variety, like the Indian or the prairie grass, is a thing of the past. There never has been but one John McCormack in the county. He only had a small territory, and he practically got all there was. His experience in such a county as O'Brien can never be repeated, therefore this item specially applies to him, as a county incident. He was a brother of B. F. and F. M. McCormack.

REMINISCENT INTERVIEW OF B. F. MCCORMACK.

Benjamin Franklin McCormack, in my judgment, was one of the most unique and original characters of whom I had a personal acquaintance in the whole forty years in the county. I had one really memorable interview with him about one year prior to his death, when he grew reminiscent and confidential, but still in his usual style, which impressed me. He was even then suffering from the malady which caused his death, and even spoke of this feature of his serious trouble, which brought on the interview. I shall try to give it as nearly in his exact words as I can from memory. I can not put in his punctuation and emphasis. I believe that any one who ever knew him would pick him out as the author of what I give below. I give it place for the reason that it covers so much of the inner county matters in those early days, and expresses the truth so well, and from so original a source,

and explains many shortcomings of those early men, and even gives some partial excuses for conditions, as we in other words have attempted to portray.

It must be remembered that Mr. McCormack did not arrive in the county until 1870, ten years after the Bosler-Cofer crowd commenced their bad work. As they contracted all the bad debt, or the body of it, in the five years from 1860 to 1865, it can be seen that Mr. McCormack should not be confounded with that bunch of worthies, even though he does himself boast of being the "successor in trust" to that crowd. Mr. McCormack strictly belonged to the crowd of actual settlers of 1870 and on. The most that can be struck at him, perhaps, is that as an official, with others, he allowed the old debt to be sued and put into judgment, when perhaps it might have been defeated in large part. Also that he participated too freely in those speculations with Pumphrey and others at Des Moines and Sioux City, in the depreciated county warrants and bonds to be in harmony with healthy official action. However, his comments on the surroundings of things will throw more or less light on the partial contributions of himself and others amid the hard grasshopper and other troublous situations.

Mr. McCormack was an educated man. He had a pronounced personality. He was a keen observer of men. He understood the street and the corner grocery crowds of men. He was long a member of the board of supervisors from 1871 to 1878, and chairman much of the time. He was grandiloquent instead of eloquent. He was a grand entertainer for a half day, sitting in a room with a small crowd, but could not talk to an assemblage. He had read poetry and the classics. He had a flow of language. He was trivial and sound in streaks. He was a politician somewhat on the "star chamber" order. On the board he was the whole "it." It was practically a one-man board on all questions that he desired to hit. He was a powerfully built man, six feet in height, weighed two hundred pounds, lived, as he said, as well as he could live in grasshopper times, clean in family life. He punctuated his conversation with good wholesome profanity. He had a full round face, heavy gray hair and light blue eyes. I shall make somewhat of an item of this interview, because he was linked with so much of all public affairs from 1870 to 1880, when the "old regime," as he proudly called it, went down in politics. It was, however, the "old regime" of the second decade.

In my mind I have termed this "McCormack's Soliloquy," for such it is. He in three hours covered many questions not here given. I have condensed that which relates strictly to county matters. In some of his phrases some readers will not exactly understand his significant meanings. One would have to understand the vernacular of the early times to fully appreciate them. This

is also true of many items and phrases in this history, but we can not make explanations too extended. Mr. McCormack took in the whole range of the back matters in the county. It has been seen that up to January 1, 1884, many of the county treasurers had their troubles in various forms. He included in his remarks comments on the "old regime," as he would almost boastfully call it. Mr. McCormack, in his very truthfulness, in "fessen up," as he termed it, often took men unawares and off their feet, until unconsciously parted with him, with the parting thought, that "B. F.," after all, was not so bad. Indeed when one reads some of his comments, we can see that such a set of conditions was a hard matter to battle with from any standpoint.

Following is his "Soliloquy," commencing with T. J. Alexander, who was the most recent treasurer with his troubles:

"Yes, poor Jeff Alexander, county treasurer, he never knew what hit him. Many of those old officials didn't know what hit them. They were conditions. Poor Jeff. Oh, ye shades of John Wesley. Good Methodist, just like Jeff. Say, Peck, why in thunder didn't those Methodists take up a collection and make up Jeff's shortages? Then there was that other poor unfortunate, Chester W. Inman, county treasurer, with his visions and dreams of a three-story castle on the classic Waterman, with its big cedar cliffs bluff, trying to be a young Yellowstone Park; too much county treasury, busted farm, good man, old soldier, fought, bled and died for this blessed country of ours, and a good soldier too he was; first in politics a reformer, then joined our Old Regime, couldn't keep out of it, succumbed, fell flat. But such is hard fate. 'What fools we mortals be.' Then there was that poor sardine of a preacher, Rev. Rouse B. Crego, another poor dog tray, maybe, in part, county treasurer if you please, part of a term only; bought a load of horses—some told it on him that he bought them with county funds—went to Sioux City, stayed there too long, several weeks. John Pumphrey said they had too much good whisky down there, but Crego said he made John his deputy, and then John stole the office. But then, a preacher had no business trying to handle money in such a hog trough as we had in them days. A two-dollar church collection was his size. He served our Old Regime fairly well, couldn't help himself, had to be good. John was his deputy and while he was gone to Sioux City John got the board to declare the office vacant and appointed John in his place. Crego soon found out he couldn't run a county by the church route. I knew he couldn't last long. He couldn't double shuffle county warrants with John Pumphrey. Yes, that reminds me of John. King

John, prince of the royal blood. John R. Pumphrey for many years run the Wall street of O'Brien county. Yes, yes, again yes, John R. Pumphrey.

Honest Injun John,
One shoe off and one shoe on,
My son John,

Glorious scion of the F. F. V.'s, the First Families of Virginia, Prince of Wales of O'Brien county.

"And then last but not least, Benjamin Franklin McCormack, of the Old Regime, successor in trust to the mantle of those beloved ancients, Bosler, Cofer, Tiffey & Co. Yes, Benjamin Franklin McCormack is a poor man. It's no disgrace to be poor with a rich wife. Look upon me, a sage, in the old doings of O'Brien county, with my hair silvered over, an old man, the preserver and guardian of the dear people, our "Cestui Que Trusts," but confound the dear cattle, some of those smart fellows got their full share.

"And then there was that big tall duffer, Warren Walker, with his long whiskers, with even more cheek than your humble servant, and both of us had more than a government mule (when shall we three meet again), a good scrapper, fought in the open; we tried to use him in the Old Regime, but he fought us part of the time, but you know, Peck, after all Walker had a heart in him as big as an ox (and he had, as the writer nodded back and knew full well).

"But we couldn't help some of those poor fellows falling by the way. They were confused in a period of bad times. I mean Jeff Alexander and Chester W. Inman and perhaps others. Like Poor Dog Tray, they got into a bad slop pail. In fact, Peck, those old 'First Seven' (barring Old Han, all the time) handed down to us, all of us, and to the county, a bad mess to deal with.

"And then, lest we forget, there was old Hannibal House Waterman, 'Old Han,' the first man God made in O'Brien county. A man all right, in an old-fashioned 'camp meetin'' could exhort to beat the cars. He was trying to farm a little, those first fellows first gave him some of the offices to make a fairly honest showing and then took them away from him, as soon as he would not do as they told him. Besides those huckleberries had their very pliable good natured clerks, Archibald Murray and Henry C. Tiffey, who did most of the book work. Waterman hardly knew what was going on. He was farming. Yes, Old Han, first and oldest inhabitant, honest as the hills; let O'Brien county history embalm his good old soul with all the praises

and solace that heaven can bestow. He was God Father at the christening, and 'Fit Injuns.'

"Then there was that Isaac W. Daggett, saved every five-cent piece, got rich with the Old Harry going on all around him, too honest for our Old Regime, wouldn't join us.

"Then, too, old Capt. A. J. Edwards, county auditor during the Gopher Scalp, joker of days, and during the worst of the grasshopper years; just think of reform during that period. But, Peck, when they condemn me, they should consider that I came here in 1870, and that grasshoppers were before every session of the board of supervisors nearly, in some form, during which I was a member, to get taxes thrown off or some worse plight. But back to Captain Edwards, tall, straight as an arrow, long beard, black as coal, in his best days an ideal soldier, a real, an actual captain, a soldier who did fighting, but nevertheless he had to be all O. K. for our Old Regime; bless that phrase, as Old Cap said, 'Dod blame it, boys, my old debts are big, just like the county debts; put 'em in judgment, sue 'em, and we can add 'em up better.'" Of course, Peck, we know, that was a curious idea of finance, and perhaps not a very good qualification for a public official to pilot a county through such troubles, but what in thunder could we all do? We had to live, and when we got a warrant we could only get from twenty-five to forty cents on the dollar for it.

"Then there was old Judge A. H. Willits, clerk of the district court, yes and of the old circuit court before it was abolished, editor of the *O'Brien Pioneer*, down at Old O'Brien, then at Pringhar for some years, then later to Sanborn. The good old judge was always good humored, a pretty writer, best dancer in town, polite as a king, loved to see him stroke those long silken whiskers of his, happy all day, never saved a cent.

"But we mustn't forget Clark Green, our Clark, everybody's Clark Green, pioneer store keeper and merchant; had a hard row to hoe. We claimed him at times as part of our old crowd; honest Clark Green, he was honest, too honest for his own good, honest enough for you reformers. He was too generous, dished out his flour, sugar, clothing, boots and shoes to those unlucky grasshoppered old homesteaders, who came into his store in their pioneer poverty as it were; who could withstand such an appeal? What county treasurer could stand such an appeal? Talk about his store busting as it did; it couldn't do anything else. See here, Peck, you rantankerous reformers couldn't have killed, trapped or shot down with a shot gun those millions of grasshoppers any better than we did. We had to live, and we all had to do business among the business that was going on. Green and Pumphrey took

in county wararns. Green took them in on his store bills. County warrants was the money, the legal tender of the realm over which we as kings and boodlers presided. Green took warrants for his goods, and the only merchant in the whole east half and south half of the county trying to carry the whole bunch, which, after he got them, could only get from twenty-five to forty cents on the dollar for them, from those fellows Polk & Hubbell, of Des Moines, or Weare & Allison, bankers at Sioux City, who bought them up, and then put them into judgment and collected it all. Why don't you reformers shed a few tears for them? Both Green and Pumphrey had to tumble round, as best they could, with the county treasurers, school treasurers, and every body else, and us old sinners, and the old gang, and the honest old settler and old homesteader. Things did get into an infernally bad fix. It did need real reformers. I really hope the county will get over its bad case of small pox. I played King Bee as well as I could. I lived during the funeral period of the county. Bosler, Cofer, Tiffey & Company handed to us an inheritance, and we all had to flounder around as best we could. I know that your humble servant and Warren Walker, and King John and the Inmans, caught blazes, but we were up against it. But the dear people did one righteous act to Clark Green when they elected him sheriff for eight years, and made amends for his store goods they ate up. He deserved it.

"But the end of the world came to our Old Regime in 1877, in the Alexander contest over the office of county treasurer, with and against Stephen Harris. But referring to this contest, of course the claim that was made at the time that voting in that cigar box should have affected that election was all a hoax. But he had to do something, we had to fight. The election was close, only seventeen majority. We grabbed at straws. That contest was an exciting event in the county. It was a climax. The two candidates were simply in the puddle. They couldn't swim out, and it took a contest to get the pole to either of them. Of course we know that many of those old treasurers had all kinds of troubles. Many of them got in over their depth. That contest became, as it were, Custer's last stand in O'Brien county, our last fight. When other folks attempt to save a drowning man, they get carried under the waters themselves. That's what happened to a lot of those county treasurers. The very cost of that contest, probably five hundred or more dollars to each one, was more than either of them was able to stand in those days. Debts were debts in those days, county debts, township debts, school debts, private debts.

"Then you fellows came on the scene, George W. Schee, and Ezra M. Brady, Thomas Holmes, William W. Johnson, Benjamin Jones, John L. Ken-

ney, Jacob H. Wolf, Frank and Fred Frisbee, Dr. C. Longshore, Hubert Sprague, David Algyer, W. N. Strong, Frank N. Derby, Lon F. Derby, O. H. Montzheimer, George R. Slocum, Frank A. Turner, William Harker, John Metcalf, J. A. Stocum, William P. Davis, E. E. Brintnall, Oliver M. Shonkwiler, Frank Patch, Joseph Shinski, Henry C. Lane, J. L. E. Peck, my dear friend here present, T. J. Alexander, and others of a large following; yes and Frank T. Piper of the *Sheldon Mail*, I must not forget him, who all concluded that *payment* was the solution, and, Peck, it *was* the only solution in fact.

"Of course, in natural sequence, sprung up the Taxpayers' Association to defeat the debt. Many good men were in it. Their intentions were honest. There was grand old A. P. Powers, who headed the list and signed the petition in court to knock out the debt. There was that original brusque character, William Huston Woods, as one of the most active leaders (Huse, you know, his favorite expression oft repeated). These men were supplemented and assisted by Ralph Dodge, W. R. Powers, Thomas J. Steele, Silas Steele, Judge A. H. Willits, Emanuel Kindig, member of the board, Joseph Rowland, also a member, Barney Harmon, Sid Hitchings, William Kenyon, Charles S. Stearns, Ezra W. McOmber, James Magee, and a large following who took the position that it was the best remedy to attempt to defeat the debt in the courts.

"This created two camps. So far as Bosler, Cofer & Co., were concerned most of this debt should have been defeated. That old debt was a good deal like Jeff Alexander's county treasurer's cash; yes, a good deal like the same money when it got into John Pumphrey's Bank of England, so mixed up with everything else on earth, they never could follow it up. Bosler, Cofer & Co. were a bad bunch. They handed us a lemon sure enough. But the defeat of the old snag or debt was impractical, I will concede. It had been clinched too tight. They blow blazes at some of us old officials, because we sat by and let them serve us with original notices and put them into judgment and not fighting them. But, Peck, did you ever think, most of that was done during the grasshopper times. Where were most of those judgments rendered? Not in our own dear little O'Brien county court house, where we at least might have been present, but mainly in the United States court at Des Moines or Sioux City. In those days also the law was that such a suit against a county could be brought in any county in the state, and many were so brought. Who had any money in them days I want to know to go tramping off to Sioux City or Des Moines or some distant county seat, and hiring

thousand-dollar lawyers, and pay hotel bills with county warrants at forty cents? Old Captain Edwards was almost right in those days when he said, 'Dod blame it, boys, put 'em in judgment; we can add 'em up easier.' You reformers couldn't have fought them in those days. We couldn't and didn't. But that contest spoiled our hash all the same. Frank Frisbee was right in that contest, though I was on the other side, when he jumped up and out in the middle of the floor in that court room and shouted that 'It was time for some damn thing to be done.'"

Then Mr. McCormack turned on me with some flattery and perhaps some condemnation thus: "Here is J. L. E. Peck himself, scrapper and saviour of the county seat, rode that mule all over the county, when the Sanborn boys tried to play hookey with the county seat. Confound you, Peck, you and George W. Schee were the only reformers, who were ever able to tumble round in office and politics, during the period of our old regime, and who were able to get out from under the juggernaut, without getting their necks broke.

"But then, J. L. E. Peck, old settler, with Benjamin Franklin McCormack, two twins, with the gray hairs growing fast in our heads, like Topsy, we may as well 'fess up,' and 'fess plenty,' on our sins. Yes, J. L. E. Peck, keen observer of human nature, who is acquainted with the old records and knows the squirmings of all us old sinners, yes, J. L. E. Peck and Schee and Holmes and Brady able to be real reformers, and yet swing clear of Pamphrey, and Benjamin Franklin McCormack & Co., successors in trust to Bosler and his blessed bunch, we Peck and McCormack, will shake hands, you over your success, I over mine.

"But, Peck, do you realize that you and Schee and Holmes and Brady and others of your bunch could not have performed your mission, even five years earlier. Our Old Regime could not have done it, even had we been endowed from heaven with good intentions. That bad place they say is paved with good intentions, but it is that bad place all the same. We had grasshoppers to eat us up, we had prairie fires to burn us up, crops on prairie sod, in debt up to our necks, had to twist blue joint hay to keep warm: see here, Peck, be a trifle kind, be charitable, your skies were soon lifted, mine continued for the whole period here. I was not in at the christening of the county. I did not help organize the little still-born county. I have attended the long years of its living funeral, with prairie fires to burn over the county, leaving its black funeral path of destruction, to say nothing of debts for breakfast, debts for dinner, debts for supper, and then debts at night to dream over in blessed sleep, and still debts to leave and die unpaid. Peck, come now, don't

condemn us with a sledge hammer. Plant a prairie sweet william over my grave.

"Alas, poor Yorick. Alas, poor Richard. Poor fellows, poor old homesteaders, ate up by grasshoppers and chintz bugs, poor Old Regime. Alas, its county officials, poor old homesteaders, old settlers, the whole push, they were dark, dark days.

"Exit. Alas. Et Dieu."

COMMENTS BY THE EDITOR.

I knew B. F. McCormack well. I think he uttered every sentence I have written above, and much more. It was his characteristic conversation. His "soliloquy," as I term it, always seemed to me to be the embers of truth shot out from a heart that had passed through troublous times. Each of those public officials and others were bumped at in politics as they passed out of office. The conditions left by Mr. McCormack and his Old Regime, as he called it, while not to be spoken in the same breath with the Bosler doings, yet they were a set of conditions that had to be corrected. He is probably correct when he says that that correction could not have been made five years sooner, or any earlier than it was. The hard times were too strenuous for sooner action, that would really meet the situation.

As carrying out and verifying some of Mr. McCormack's statements, the senior editor will give one item in his individual experience. In 1878 I was appointed as a committee to check up the term of office of Judge A. H. Willits, clerk of the courts. It occupied twelve and one-half days. I was allowed three dollars per day in a county warrant for thirty-seven dollars and fifty cents. I sold that warrant to John Pumphrey for fifteen dollars to pay my board. As one can see in result, I got about, or a trifle over one dollar per day. One can see from this item the significance of Mr. McCormack's remark, where he asks, "Who had any money in them days to go tramping down to Sioux City or Des Moines to hire thousand-dollar attorneys in United States courts to fight those debts?" And yet, when said and done, much of that debt and the large part of it was fraudulent, and as against those first men who created it and who deserved defeat.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA AND ARMY RECORD OF OLD SOLDIERS WHO HAVE LIVED IN O'BRIEN COUNTY.

This is the title of a book of one hundred and ninety-nine pages, compiled by George W. Schee and O. H. Montzheimer, and published in 1909. It gives

the residence, date of birth, names of wife and family, date of enlistment, name of company, regiment, division, brigade and corps, from what state, names of battles in which engaged, when discharged, whether paroled, or a prisoner, and, where imprisoned, with length of time. In addition to this army record, it further gives the date and place of settlement in the county, if an old homesteader, then his description of land entered, and located, with name of township, of what lodges or church a member, whether a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and of what post, and other data. This book or army record thus gives a sketch of about one-third of a page to each of five hundred and seventy-five soldiers of the Mexican, Philippine, Civil and Indian wars, and who at some time have resided in the county.

One only needs to read the first biography given to grasp the very extensive research and correspondence necessary to complete this work, for work it was. O. H. Montzheimer spent some three months at Washington among the old army reports and archives, to secure this data of army record authentic; all this, besides much time spent at Pringhar with Mr. Schee in the slow process of mails and letters, directed to those who have removed from the county or the families of those deceased. Mr. Schee published the book at his own expense and presented a copy to each old soldier or his family. Both its contents, as well as the publication itself, is a worthy item of history in the county.

The editors of this history had originally decided as far as possible to omit all statistics or long lists of names or figures on all questions. But we will deviate in this list of old soldiers. The Civil War was the greatest war in all history. As stated, five hundred and seventy-five settled in or have resided in the county. This would represent about that number of families. With the children and grandchildren of soldiers, they probably now represent a full fourth of about four thousand of the population of the county. The full army record of each name may be found in Mr. Schee's Book of Army Records. Each child and grandchild will be glad to read the name of grandfather in this honored list, and the old soldiers will be glad to run over this condensed statement. Many of these old soldiers were also old homesteaders and pioneers and helped to fight out the early problems of the county. The figures in parenthesis indicates the year of settlement when known.

LIST OF OLD SOLDIERS WHO HAVE SETTLED IN O'BRIEN COUNTY.

Baker Township—Levi M. Allison, Abel H. Balcom (1871), William Wallace Beebe (1883), Gustavus Bollenbeck (1881), David Bryson (1877),

Andrew Carman (1871), Charles B. Dingly (1869), Andrew J. Donovan (1870), Byron Donovan (1870), J. W. Donovan (1870), Leonard Grady (1882), Demetrius J. Judd (1873), John Ker (1886), William H. Knepper (1871), Wallace Lasher (1884), William W. Luce (1870), Daniel Morfitt (1871), Enoch Philby (1870), J. J. Philby (1889), William Pursell (1871), Wallace E. Rinker (1870), William Short (1900), Henry Sutter (1870), Samuel G. Sutter (1870), Warren Walker (1871), William W. Walters (1871), John Wood (1871), Frank E. Wyman (1872).

Caledonia Township—William O. Boyd (1876), Henry Frederick Gebert (1907), John Wollenberg (1883).

Center Township—Jared P. Blood (1871), William Brander (1873), Adolphus V. Conaway (1882), William H. Brown (1871), Dewitt C. Chapman (1871), Charles J. Clark (1870), Ancil L. Creamer (1872), Willard H. Eaton (1875), John Evans (1871), David M. Gano (1870), Daniel Griffith (1870), Philip A. Hamm (1871), Marquiss (Mark) Hannon (1871), George Hay (1888), David Ingraham (1870), Jasper N. Marsh (1889), Francis Matott (1871), Frank Matott, Jr. (1871), Archibald McDonald (1870), Alfred P. McLaren (1870), Charles Moon (1870), James Morton (1876), William Oliver (1873), David Palen (1870), George Pfitzenmaier (1871), George Sanford (1873), Ephraim Scott (1873), Joseph Seidell (1884), Ezra F. Smith (1870), William H. Smith (1872), Milton Thornton (1876), Claudius Tift (1871), Orlando M. Whitman (1871), Melvin C. Wilkins (1871), Edwin R. Wood (1872).

Carroll Township—Abel Appleton (1871), Andrew J. Brock (1869), John Clements (1873), Harley Day (1871), Willard H. Dorsey (1871), John Durgin (1880), Gladney Ewers (1871), Dewitt C. Fields (1869), Milton Gillespie (1871), Miles H. Hart (1871), August F. Herrick (1870), Horace Parker Holyoke (1871), Elnathan S. Huber (1871), Benjamin Hutchinson (1871), George N. Klock (1872), Theodore Lemaster (1871), Marcellus G. McClellan (1872), Oscar McElwain (1869), J. E. McMillen (1871), George Mennig (1870), Silas Pool (1871), George W. Schee (1871), Isaac Sprague (1871), John F. Stone (1873), James Thomas (1871), Charles W. Toothaker (1871), George Van Epps (1871), James J. Wiley (1879), James M. Lewis (1883).

Town of Calumet—James Burnworth (1804), William Meier (1884).

Dale Township—Jacob C. Hillyer (1870), Thomas T. Shaffner (1871), Thomas J. Trulock (1883).

Floyd Township—Edmund W. Bache (1881), William Bonner (1883), John A. Brown (1873), Asa G. Canfield, Isaac Clements (1871), Edward

J. Copping (1880), George W. Copping (1872), Ammon H. Damon, Henry Denny (1876), Timothy Donahue (1871), James A. Glenn (1871), Elijah W. Gregg (1874), Joshua W. Davis (1870), Joseph M. Kirk, Charles Lingenfelter, Benjamin F. H. Luce (1869), William Lyle (1870), Robert E. Oskorn (1871), Seymour Shryock (1871), George Sill, L. S. Stone (1871), Frank Turfree (1878), Edwin A. Ward (1871), Leroy S. Hackett (1871).

Franklin Township—Thomas F. Allen (1881), Thomas H. Croson (1881), Isaac Daniels (1874), William H. Dummitt (1872), Jacob H. Wolf (1873), Charles H. Zechman (1876).

Grant Township—David Algyer (1872), Anson Albee (1876), Isaac P. Ashalter, William W. Barnes (1869), Don Carlos Barry (1870), Robert W. Boyd (1871), Joseph J. Bryant (1888), John F. Burroughs (1871), Solomon E. Carmichael (1878), Charles E. Chandler (1869), George H. Cobb (1871), William A. Compton (1871), Job H. Christ (1871), Charles A. Didiot (1869), George H. Diggins (1877), Byram H. Eckman (1869), Andrew J. Edwards (—), Benjamin F. Epperson (colored) (1870), John H. Frush (1878), John B. Funnal (1881), Warren N. Gardner, Reuben Gross (1870), Desalvo B. Harmon (1869), Stephen Harris (1870), Luther E. Head (1870), Hiram H. Hinchbaugh (1871), Harvey Hoffman (1870), Daniel W. Inman (1866), Chester W. Inman (1866), August Jacob (1880), Corwin M. Johnson (1869), George W. Jones (1870), Sammel J. Jordan (1869), John W. Kelly (1868), James Kenyon, John Loder (1871), Thomas McBath (1870), John C. McCandless (1869), Charles W. Merwin (1880), William Newell (1867), John H. Peck (1882), Newman Renington (1871), Louis Renville (1881), Napoleon Renville (1881), Alanson Clark Robinson (1878), William H. Seeley (1882), Joseph H. Shearer (1871), Edwin T. Shepard (1877), William Slack (1871), Edwin R. Smith (1870), Charles M. Stephenson (1871), Enoch R. Streeter (1873), James Streeter (1871), Orville A. Sutton (1872).

Highland Township—Charles F. Albright (1871), Wallace Buchanan, Doctor F. Burke (1872), John M. Casey (1869), Anderson M. Cleghorn (1870), George Washington Collett, John S. Culbertson (1871), Cyrus I. Dewey (1873), James T. Dewey (1871), Zadoc P. Freeman (1870), William Gaskill (1870), Livingston T. Gates (1878), George Hakeman (1872), Abner M. Hunter (1877), John Jesop (1884), William W. Johnson (1871), Alexander Q. Long (1883), Asher Lyon (1871), Wallace Partridge (1882), Jonathan Richardson (1870), Russell Salisbury (1875), Edward Shea (1870), William M. Squire (1870), Herman Tiffany (1871), William G. Virgil (1869), Homer H. Webster (1870), Jasper H. Rickey (1880).

Hartley Town and Township—Robert W. Ayers (1881), Samuel Boyce (1883), Walker W. Brown (1888), Thomas B. Carpenter (1880), W. H. Conrad (1881), John C. Cram (1882), Thomas E. Davis (1881), Christian Dorman (1891), William A. Elliott (1892), Joseph L. Gage (1885), Samuel Grapes (1888), Thomas V. Griffith, M. Hall, James Hall, Philip E. Hathaway (1885), John E. Holford (1885), Edmund J. Hurley (1888), Samuel Kaestlen (1880), Eleazer J. Kelly (1895), Franklin Kelley (1882), David Kroft (1893), Smedley H. McMaster (1887), Erwin Barker Messer (1887), Leonard Miller (1885), I. Morris (1882), George Nicodemus (1890), Robert Paiseley (1884), John N. Smith (1881), Francis Soucy, James Steece (1888), John I. Story (1888), Rufus Tarr (1888), James S. Webster (1883), John W. Thomas (1882).

Lincoln Township—William H. Oppelt (1883).

Omega Township—Byron C. Bouton (1884), Charles O. Cookinham (1881), Christopher Hopfe (1888), James H. Peanor (1890), Philo Stevens (1871), John J. Thompson (1894), William Wicks (1886).

Paulina—John N. Bower (1886), Fletcher C. Boyd (1888), W. F. Clark, Elias H. Contryman (1807), Orson F. Eggleston, George C. Jones (1881), George H. Lyons, John Metcalf (1884), Charles W. Sprague (1885), William P. Stratton (1883).

Pringhar—Peter R. Bailey (1880), at Sheldon; Henry D. Ballard (1890), Sylvanus C. Baseon (1882), Ira Boat (1876), John W. Campbell (1892), Samuel A. Carter (1889), William Castledine (1887), George H. Cook (1887), James E. Daniels (1874), George W. Davis (1877), James B. Dunn (1880), Francis A. Gere (1888), Henry Goodman (1884), Nelson M. Hadden (1802), Elias T. Holt (1890), Julius Montzheimer, Bradford J. Peasley (1894), Charles H. Slocum (1888), Lewis D. Thomas (1876), Peter Torreson, Samuel C. Wood (1895).

Sanborn—Henry Roden, James F. Sisson (1884), John Shine, Charles H. Stansbury (1885), John Stebbins, Samuel J. Stokes (1881), John W. Todd (1888), Harrison Vanderlip (1893), Joseph M. Vincent (1887), Henry M. Walston (1896), Tobias D. White (1878), Charles E. Whitney (1882), Ransom R. Wilcox (1897), William H. Woodman (1881), Hiram Winn (1895).

Sutherland—Michael Betz (1895), Joseph Cowan (1871), Robert Cumming (1882), David Goldtrap, P. E. Greer, Edward L. Hudson, Frank M. Lee (1890), D. H. Lemberg (1885), Lewis J. McCulla (1870), Comfort C. Morrill (1882), Edward W. Parker (1890), James Parks, Jr. (1887), Charles Peaker (1870), David W. Pratt (1880), Julius Renville (1881),

William Rheinhart (1884), Daniel M. Sheldon (1882), Charles M. Short (1884), H. C. Sperry, J. H. Stockwell (1881), Lewis P. Vance (1890), Nelson Wells, Clement M. Wiley (1899).

Liberty Township—Thomas J. Alexander (1870), J. Hartley Alexander (1869), David R. Barmore (1869), William Thomas Bethel (1876), Benjamin Bidwell (1898), Francis L. Bidwell (1881), William M. Breyfogle (1870), Aaron Brown (1875), Jasper N. Burroughs (1870), Jerome B. Davis (1870), Julius C. Doling (1870), Philip A. Emery (1871), Thomas J. Fields (1869), David Harkness (1870), Elam Hiatt (1874), James H. Hicks (1870), Henry E. Hoagland (1870), George W. Louthan (1878), Squire Mack (1870), Joseph Manley (1870), William Marks, James B. Mason (1881), George Nelson (1871), Thomas B. Nott (1870), John R. Pumphrey (1869), Hiram W. Redman (1878), Isaac L. Rerick (1871), John M. Snyder (1872), James M. Stewart (1876), Thomas G. Stewart (1876), William J. Stewart (1871), Daniel Tuttle (1870), Richard M. Vanhorn (1871), Sidney Viers (1869), Lester C. Washburn (1870), Hiram C. Wheeler (1876), Martin D. Wheeler, William H. Wiltse (1871), Hiram A. Worden (1869), Jesse H. Wright (1870), Tyler Edward Sprague (1870).

Sanborn—James V. Allen, William T. Bowen (1880), Hugh Erwin Carroll (1880), Abram DeLong (1870), Clinton Dewitt (1887), William C. Dewitt (1882), Ireneus Donaldson, Martin Finlay (1883), Abner W. Harmon (1882), Almorán A. Hitchcock (1887), John C. Inman, W. Craig Jackson (1892), Charles Jones (1804), George W. Kimball (1882), Elias Leonard, Barney McArdel (1882), Joseph E. McCormack (1893), Wilbur F. Mills (1880), Chauncey F. Owen (1880), G. F. Peckham (1879), Ira G. Pool (1879), R. G. Pratt, Caleb Pringle.

Sheldon—Sampson Adkins (1888), Ruel W. Allen (1894), William J. Anderson (1881), Orrison E. Andrews, George Ahrend (1801), Osmond M. Barrett (1873), James Beacom (1878), Erastus W. Bennett (1873), George E. Berry (1875), John D. Billings (1879), John F. Bishop (1884), Walter B. Bowne (1881), John Brennan (1874), Bryan George, Joseph D. Bunce, Robert Burnett, Horatio P. Burnham, John H. Butler, J. D. Butler, J. W. Carson, A. D. Coats (1891), Albert T. Cobb, Stephen A. Colburn, George F. Colcord (1873), Felix G. Cole (1879), Jesse Cole (1887), Harmon Cook (1871), Uriah Cook, Charles Cattel (1875), F. S. Cattel (1875), Palmer Crampton (1892), H. M. Crocker (1887), Mortimer B. Darnell (1883), Edgar J. Davis (1882), L. E. Davis, John R. Deacon, William H. Dorward (1884), Perry A. Eddington (1880), Daniel G. Eldridge (1883), Alpheus H. Ford, Charles W. Ford, J. W. Fuller (1882), William Gibson

(1802), James N. Gingrey (1891), John A. Ginther, Charles W. Glynn (1880), George A. Greenfield (1885), Frank H. Guthrie (1872), George B. Hardell (1877), Albert T. Hart (1897), John M. Hayes (1884), Frank Healey, Davis Haaststrand (1885), William Hecker (1870), J. W. Hicks (1870), Phineas C. Hicks (1870), William Hicks (1870), James Holland, Calvin Hook (1873), Andrew Hunt (1878), Alber Hurley (1899), Henry C. Lane (1872), Edwin T. Langley (1895), J. W. Lee, T. J. Lett (1878), J. O. Lias (1888), Robert B. Lockwood, Mortimer Lyons, Isaac E. Markham, L. D. Marshall, James Marston (1872), Robert Martin (1882), John D. McBroom (1801), James M. Merrill (1873), Edwin P. Messer (1882), Andrew Miller, John B. Miller, N. Harrison Montis, William H. Moore (1889), R. A. Morris (1882), Fred P. B. Morrison, Alfred Morton (1879), Lewis Myers (1805), Alber H. Neff (1881), William Olinger (1880), Edmond F. Parkhurst (1871), George Patterson (1882), James Peden (1804), Francis M. Perkins (1892), J. I. Perry (1893), Ai Seeley Powers (1888), Joseph W. Reagan (1881), Eugene Riddell (1882), Joseph Rider, William H. Riley, Edwin Y. Royce (1894), Thomas Ryan, Henry A. Scott (1870), Jonathan T. Shaw, John M. Schrenk (1801), Charles H. Smith, John W. Steelman (1802), Henry C. Stephens, William N. Strong (1874), Joseph W. Taylor, George Terry (1874), Andrew J. Treaster, Britton Vanness, John C. Vancampen (1873), David K. Vrooman (1896), Henry M. Walsmith (1882), O. W. Walker, Horace Wellman (1891), Nelson P. Wildrick, J. C. Wilsmuth, George W. Wilsey (1887), Henry H. Winters, John Woodard, Warren J. Woods, James Wykoff (1873), E. M. Young.

Summit Township—George B. Davids (1880), Stephen F. Jordan (1873).

Union Township—James R. Culp (1885), Peter Rich (1883).

Waterman Township—Edward C. Brown (1870), Benjamin F. Campbell (1807), Erastus F. Cleveland (1882), Philo G. Coleman (1872), James A. Dewitt (1873), Russell Dewitt (1870), William S. Fuller (1870), Abraham K. Hardenbrook (1884), Asa Harkness (1871), Charles W. Hoxie (1871), Samuel B. Hulbert (1869), James C. Jenkins (1881), James P. Martin (1887), George A. McOmber (1869), Jerome Morse (1866), J. H. Reager (1885), James Roberts (1871), Charles M. Stephenson (1865), Almeron Waterman (1875), Lionel A. Worth (1869).

Miscellaneous—D. W. Buell, Livingston A. Burnell, William H. Buchanan, Albert C. Burnside, Richard Butler (1876), John H. Creamer, George Denny, Albert Donovan, Marion Flanders, Zeph D. Hollenbeck, D. Morris, Israel Pancoast, George W. Rutherford (1873), Samuel C. Todd, William S. Wyatt.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE SCRUB POET.

In the various public affairs, excitements and early developments in the county, the Scrub Poet has quite occasionally and persistently gotten into the ring. Many of these effusions have been neither original, Shakespearean nor classic, and scarcely poetic. Nevertheless they have at times hit off sundry mile heats in county doings. The poetic critic will, therefore, disarm himself before bombarding. A place is given to this novice poet laureate with the thought that the reader will enjoy a little spice, even though they did at times hit local happenings. They are often selected from both sides of the sundry questions, from this historic spice box, and not to hit this or that at the present late date now. For instance, this little couplet:

"Pringhar jumped up,
County seat pup,"

was the expression of Editor Caleb G. Bundy, an early 1881 drastic and sarcastic writer, as a then sort of sneer at Pringhar, either in the *Pringhar Times*, just as he left Pringhar, or in the *Paullina Times*, as a parting salute, in sarcasm, when he moved that paper to Paullina.

Some six or eight of the little parodies in this chapter were written by Jonathan A. Stocum, a large farmer and early attorney in Sanborn. He moved there from Chicago with the town in 1878, and, with John Lawler of the Milwaukee road, had laid out and platted Stocum & Lawler's addition to Sanborn. Among the same years, or a little later, W. A. Mickey, the father-in-law of Jacob H. Wolf, of the *Bell*, platted Mickey's addition to Hartley. Mr. Stocum had been a lecturer for years in Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College in Chicago and was much of a punster. In his musings over the wild prairies, and in observations on the then large herds of cattle roaming on the wild range of prairie pastures, with the cows lariated out in the towns and streets, and of the verdant and pioneer appearance of the then two little burgs set down in the prairie grass, with their first wooden business shacks, many unpainted, made him use the expression below jingled:

"Hartley and Sanborn,
Lariated out,
Prairie grass growing,
Wolves all about."

Mr. Stocum also jingled the little parodies, "Tig, Tag, Toe," "Intry Mintry Cutery Corn," "Old Mother Hubbard," "Humpty Dumpty on the Wall," and some other Mother Goose parodies. The Scrub Poet almost invariably runs to the parody and imitation. This will be observed in the numerous parodies herein given, which have appeared in one form or another during these thirty years.

The parody on "Jack Sprat," relating to Hartley, Moneta and Plessis, was gotten off by a wag commercial traveler in the Park Hotel in Hartley, some time after the Rock Island road was built. He was chinning a fellow runner as to whether it would pay in his line of goods to run down to Moneta, that little burg just then springing up. The other runner sarcastically replied that inasmuch as his chum's business was so extensive he surely should not fail to make Plessis also. Then the first runner got off this parody found herein on Jack Sprat, how Hartley, the big town between, licked the platter clean, by doing all the then trade in that territory. Other wags, editors and squibblers from time to time have perpetrated other of the poetic shots. The reader will perhaps not at all times be versed in the vernacular or idioms of the early pioneer, to fully appreciate all the items, but the main expressions had an early-time meaning. We can simply enjoy them as part of the humors of the early day.

* * *

"O'Brien county
Will bring you bounty."

* * *

THE SURROUNDING COUNTIES.

We look up to Osceola,
We look down on Cherokee,
To Clay county we look eastward,
Sioux, down towards the sun down sea.

We squint up cornering to Lyon,
Then to Dickinson on the lakes,
South to Plymouth, Betna Vista,
At our southern corner stakes.

* * *

TOWNSHIPS OF O'BRIEN COUNTY.

Floyd township, Franklin, Lincoln,
Hartley, Omega, Grant;
Carroll township, Summit, Center,
Half told you say? Yet scant.

For Sheldon town, a township is,
 Complete within its zone,
 Though not congressional in size,
 Complete it stands alone.

Down to Baker, Dale and Highland,
 Caledonia, Union scan,
 Banner of Liberty held up,
 By our oldest Waterman.

* * *

A BURNED OFF PRAIRIE, OLD BLACK JOE.

Gone are the days when the prairies burned away,
 Gone are the friends of the early homestead day,
 Gone from this land to a better land I know,
 I see those prairies burning, crackling,
 Old Black Joe.
 Prairies burning,
 Black earth turning,
 While my head is bending low,
 I hear those homestead angel voices calling,
 Old Black Joe.

* * *

The haytwister twisted his haytwisted twist,
 A wrist twisted, fist twisted hay twisted twist,
 He twisted it twisting a hay twist—You tryer!
 He twisted that hay stack straight into the fire.

* * *

I have seen the homesteader almost in tears,
 As the hopper harvested his unharvested ears,
 And all this, too, in successive years,
 Now happily all passed by.

* * *

CHARGE OF THE GRASSHOPPER BRIGADE.

Half a league, half a league,
 Half a league onward,
 Right from the west they came,
 More than six hundred.

Out from the forest and glade,
 "Charge for the corn," they said,
 Then for the fields they made,
 More than six hundred.
 Fields to the right of them,
 Fields to the left of them,
 Fields to the front of them,
 Pillaged and plundered,
 Naught could their numbers tell,
 Down on the crop they fell,
 Nor left a stalk or shell,
 More than six hundred.
 Flashed all their red legs bare,
 Flashed as they turned in air,
 Robbing the farmers there.
 Charging an orchard, while
 All the world wondered.
 Plunged in the smudge and smoke,
 Right through the corn they broke,
 Hopper and locust;
 Peeled they the stalks all bare,
 Shattered and sundered;
 Then they went onward—but
 More than six hundred.

* * *

In eighteen hundred and seventy-nine
 (The last year of the hoppers)
 O'Brien's county's sun doth shine;
 We've reached the land of corn and wine,
 Prosperity's rich and golden mine,
 Spreads wide its treasures, grain and vine
 These troubles past, we'll now consign
 To relics of Ye Olden Time.

* * *

Intry, Mintry, Cutery Corn,
 Strung on the Central to adorn,
 Calumet, Gaza, and Pringhar then,
 With Archer all going up to Sheldon again.

Old Mother Hubbard, she went to the cupboard,
 To get "The Northwestern Line,"
 She strung on the fish,
 Sutherland a menu dish,
 While for a straight westliner,
 Put Paullina on the diner,
 For supper as you wish.

* * *

Jack Sprat Plessis could eat no fat,
 While Moneta could eat no lean,
 And so betwixt them both,
 Hartley licked the platter clean,
 On the Rock Island,
 Rock O Bye fine land.

* * *

TENTING, CAMPING, FARMING ON THE OLD PRAIRIE GROUND.

We are farming today on the old prairie ground,
 Where we camped, where we tented when we came,
 With the old covered wagon, and a four-ox team,
 Breaking for the sod corn grain.
 CRO.—Farming today,
 Tenting today,
 Farming on the old prairie ground.

We are antoing today where we mired in the mud,
 Where we then dug a well in the slough,
 With big gang plows, the planter then in line,
 Waiting the season through.
 CRO.—Farming today,
 Tenting today,
 Farming where we mired in the mud.

We are farming today on the tiled out land,
 Beyond the dream of the homesteader in the early day,
 With grain elevators and four-horse teams abreast,
 In the big modern house all so grand.
 CRO.—Farming today,
 Tenting today,
 Tenting in the modern house so grand.

I 'aint got long to stay here,
 And what little time I've got,
 I'd rather be contented to remain,
 The angels there will welcome us,
 Over on that Golden Shore,
 My old haytwisting neighbor,
 And my wife who's gone before,
 From that little old sod shanty on the claim.

* * *

Eney, Meney, Miney, Mo,
 I went to Pringhar with my beau,
 We got a license,
 The job was done,
 Plural number,
 We are one.

* * *

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
 And never brought to mind,
 Should the old O'Brien be forgot,
 And days of auld lang syne,
 For auld O'Brien, my dear,
 For auld lang syne,
 We'll take a cup of kindness yet,
 For auld lang syne.

* * *

How dear to this heart are the scenes of that homestead,
 When fond recollections present them to view,
 The old shack, the musket, the deep tangled slough grass,
 And every loved spot which that homesteader knew.
 The wide spreading prairie, the hay stacks upon it,
 The wheat and the oats where the grasshoppers fell,
 The shack of my father, the haytwister nigh it,
 And e'en the old musket, hanging where we dare not tell,
 The old rusty musket,
 The back kicken musket,
 And e'en that old musket, hanging where we dare not tell

Way down upon the Little Siou-ax,
 Sadly I roam,
 Still sadly o'er my memory "Too Lax,"
 Warrants and the Stub Books gone.
 No more I hear the County Rats writing,
 Log Court House gone,
 No more the letting humbug bridges,
 Down in Old O'Brien home.

CHORUS:

All the Swamp Lands are sad and dreary,
 Skeeters hardly blink,
 Bosler, Cofer, Tiffey ever weary,
 Done gone over Hades' brink.

Old O'Brien was the first county seat. It was Bosler, Cofer and Tiffey who were largely responsible for the old debt. Old O'Brien was on the Little Sioux. The above was McCormack's way of pronouncing the Siou-ax.

* * *

Work for the night is coming,
 Work you son of a gun,
 (Pete Swenson said, not in fun),
 Or "over the hills you will go,"
 As soon as the poor house is done.

* * *

Twinkle, twinkle little school,
 How I wonder what the rule,
 Up above this soil so grand,
 By O'Brien learn to stand.

* * *

Humpty, Dumpty on the wall,
 Grasshoppers on that field did fall,
 All the king's horses and all the king's men,
 Couldn't put those gay grasshoppers back here again.

* * *

O for a thousand tongues to sing,
 O'Brien county's praise,
 I'll raise more corn, an auto buy,
 A thousand hogs I'll raise.

* * *

In all this grand country, Iowa's Northwest,
 May O'Brien there shine as the grandest and best.

FIRST STARTS OF TOWNS AND RAILROADS.

Old O'Brien,
 Still a sigh'en
 Eighteen sixty,
 Just for fun,
 Oldest town,
 First begun,
 Saddest tale,
 Tongue or pen,
 Story of what,
 Might have been.

Sheldon started,
 Seventy-two,
 First railroad town,
 What to do,
 Railroad breeches
 All made up,
 Mighty good start,
 Thrifty pup.
 Sioux City road,
 July third,
 Hit the town,
 Early bird,
 July Fourth,
 Natal day,
 Folks all there,
 Sheldon gay.
 Governor Miller,
 Speeched the speech,
 First railroad engine,
 Screeched the screech

Pringhar jumped up.
 County seat pup,

Eighteen hundred
 Seventy-two,
 Prairie wild,
 Hove in view,
 No railroad,
 Only jailroad.
 Court house and jail,
 No cars, no rail.

Eighteen hundred,
 Seventy-eight,
 Milwaukee road,
 Passed the gate.
 Road went "Shop"ping,
 For a town,
 Railroad shops,
 Then staked down.
 Sanborn, Hartley,
 Lariated out,
 Raw prairie,
 Wolves all about.

Central railroad,
 Eighty-seven,
 Pringhar gladdened,
 Hope of heaven.
 Sheldon thribbled,
 Railroad size,
 Archer born
 Wipes its eyes.
 Gaza hustles.
 Street cars run.
 Calumet bristles,
 "Get your gun."

Nineteen hundred,
 Century ending,
 All then complete,
 Our railroad building.
 Rock Island road
 Brings a shout,
 Hartley bustles,
 Another way out.
 Moneta southeast,
 Plessis northwest,
 Wipe off your chin,
 Pull down your vest.

Lest we forget,
 And be so lax,

To omit Evander,
 Or Little Max.
 And Germantown,
 Parochial school,
 Big German church,
 Pipe organ stool.

Rich farms, cattle,
 Horses and sheep,
 Houses ample,
 Eat and sleep,
 Towns all built,
 Firm as the ground,
 Proud of the county.
 "Round all round."

* * *

Tig, Tag, Toe,
 Three towns in a row,
 Hartley, Sanborn and Sheldon too,
 On the Milwaukee, a straight shot through.

* * *

AN INDIGNANT TAXPAYER'S SENTIMENT ON THE COUNTY DEBT.

We will camp out upon our farms,
 We will not pay this debt,
 We'll get out an injunction quick,
 Let the bondholders sweat.

We will not pay one cent of tax,
 We have no dollars to spare,
 To be mixed up in such a deal,
 Would make an angel swear.

We'll hang the first official up,
 To the nearest wagon tongue,
 Who dares to make a levy or tax,
 By a neck-tie will be strung.

The discovery of the enormous debt by the homesteaders when they arrived, during and following the year 1870, and later its confirmation by the

examination and report of the debt made by George W. Schee, county auditor, at the January session of the board of supervisors for 1877, caused much excitement and discussion. The above righteously indignant sentiments were in fact specially expressed at a taxpayers' picnic which might almost have been styled an indignation meeting, held in Grant township in 1878 to discuss same, and later appeared in the verse above.

As seen elsewhere, however, owing to the fear on the part of the people of the odium of bankruptcy fastening itself upon the county and injuring it, and the further conclusion of its impracticability of defeat, the whole debt was paid except sundry thousand referred to below. An injunction suit was in fact instituted by the Taxpayers' Association by A. P. Powers and many others against the treasurer, and payment of the debt was stopped for a number of years by the court.

* * *

A BON(D) FIRE.

We'll look into these bonds somewhat,
We'll stop in part this ire,
Before the board an inquest hold,
We'll hold a big bon(d) fire.

The report of George W. Schee showed in fact on paper an outstanding debt of two hundred and seventy-three thousand seven hundred and twenty-five dollars. He, however, showed all possibilities. There were some bonds actually signed up and outstanding for which no record could be found. On closer investigation it was found that those gentry who brought suit against the county and took judgment in some cases had seen to it that the county warrants sued upon were not cancelled, and had in sundry cases actually withdrawn them from the court records and sued them a second time. This all made much labor and required patience.

John Dickinson, a traveling man for a Des Moines stationary house, who sold supplies to the county, presented in 1881 one of these bonds for one thousand dollars which had come into possession of this supply house. When so convinced that no record could be found, the house cancelled and surrendered same to the county. Mr. Dickinson, who was known all over Iowa as a hale fellow well met in the various court houses, then came before the board of supervisors with this bond for one thousand dollars and which, with interest, then amounted to as much more, and held, as he gleefully termed it, an inquest and bon(d) fire. It was burned before the board during a

session during the incumbency of J. L. E. Peck, the writer hereof, as county auditor, and a record by resolution was made of same.

This incident ended up a number of thousand dollars of this class of bonds. This, together with the county warrants sued upon twice as stated, and sundry sums paid in meantime during Mr. Schee's term of office accounts for the apparent discrepancy between reports.

This statement is about correct without going into details, namely: That from the date of Mr. Schee's report in January, 1877, forward, that the sum of two hundred and forty thousand dollars was paid or rebonded, and that from the date of the rebonding in 1881 during Mr. Peck's term that two hundred and thirty thousand was disposed of, namely, thirty thousand dollars in cash and the two hundred thousand dollars in new bonds issued at seven per cent. It must be remembered that during all those years payments were made from time to time and the amounts as stated would vary according to the time computed from.

* * *

HE RODE THAT MULE.

J. L. E. Peck that mule did ride,
Bare back, with naught but halter,
Scared like hell,
With a midnight yell,
Lustily ringing an old cow bell,
To rouse the people far and wide,
That Pringhar might yet there abide,
As a county seat and save its hide,
To make report,
And hold the fort,
And hold down its Gibraltar.

This item went the rounds of the press in various forms after the Sanborn county-seat raid in 1882. Mr. Peck was the only official present, and in fact sent out parties all over the county to rouse the people up.

* * *

THAT MARTYRED WAGON—TIME OF THE SANBORN RAID, 1882.

Friends, please stop one moment,
Your everlasting bragging,
While I tell you not of what you've done,
But of that martyred wagon.

I know you came to Sanborn,
Brave men without once fagging.
You get the praise, but never speak,
Of that poor martyred wagon.

That wagon, as you no doubt know,
No work had ever done,
Till on its wheels was put a safe
That weighed a round two ton.

But those hurried men who put it there
Were sure it safely there would ride,
If ax and hatchet had not been
So womanly applied.

But ax and hatchet were applied,
The game they were for winning,
Until that wagon did give way
For lack of underpinning.

If those Primgareans had done naught else
But stamp, and swore and raved,
The spokes of that poor wagon would
Undoubtedly have been saved.

But that wagon new was soon hewn down,
In the city's broadest way,
The Sanborn men—what else to do—
Went off and let it lay.

There stood that martyred wagon,
Till the birds their songs had sung
Then came the folks from far and near,
And took that wagon tongue.

They put that wagon tongue on high,
Right near that wagon's grave,
It was soon afloat on the morning breeze,
The Stars and Stripes to wave.

Give three long cheers for the wagon,
As loud as you are able,
It has a glorious resting place
Upon the center table.

That wagon, friends, was all chopped up,
And scattered far and wide,
Its parts adorn those center tables,
E'en to the ocean's tide.

There may it rest in peace for aye,
Its fellies, hubs and spokes,
And may he get his pay for it,
Its owner, Mr. Stokes.

This is the wagon on which the county treasurer's safe was loaded, in the public square, during the raid. The Pringhar people had pulled the nuts off the wagon during the melee and disabled it and it never got to Sanborn.

* * *

THE COUNTY SEAT.

What is it that hustled the Primghar lads
And stood nearly all of them onto their heads
And made Colonel Pumphrey come down with the scads?
The County Seat.

What made them gather around in a bunch
At Tiff's saloon for his free lunch
And close it up with a bowl of punch?
The County Seat.

What made old "Samul" so short and sharp
And on his land and his taxes harp
And cause him so much to fret and carp?
The County Seat.

What made the county dads so long
In session, when they to their farms belong
And to swallow such camphor to make them strong?
The County Seat.

What made Clark Green get up on his ear
And swear about Sheldon far and near,
With a string of adjectives swift and clear?
The County Seat.

What was it made such a busy sight
And hustled all Pringhar around in the night,
Working for life with main and might?

The County Seat.

What was it sent Sanborn boys away
To Pringhar, and be there day after day,
And made things lively during their stay?

The County Seat.

What is it that won't let Pringhar sleep,
But will keep her uneasy and make her weep?
Something she's got, but never can keep—

The County Seat.

What was it made Barrett so slow to tell
That he worked so hard and worked so well?
But passed in our checks and gone to h—ll.

The writer of this history never ascertained the author of the above. The "Samul," named in the poem, however, referred to "Old Uncle Samuel Hibbs," who lived to be one hundred and one years of age. He first homesteaded the southwest quarter of section 8, in Highland, in 1870. Later, for many years, he was an enthusiastic squatter, but failed out, in that he got onto the Milwaukee land. He was a typical scrapper and pioneer, honest in every detail, and had much to say about the Sanborn raid. A rough and tumble for possession, physically if necessary, was his forte. Everybody knew he existed and was on earth. His last fifteen years in life's close were spent in total blindness, he having lines or rope cords stretched around his residence yards to guide his footsteps. The above poem referred to that raid in 1882. He lived many years in Sanborn, where he died in 1910.

* * *

COULDN'T FIND THE ANGLING ROAD.

One little incident occurred just now as I write, which brings out seriously to the editor of this book the prominent fact that so much of the past of O'Brien county is passed forever. While in the very act of gathering items at my desk one day, E. C. Brooks, an old homesteader on the southwest quarter of section 24, in Floyd, stuck his head in the door and commenced to talk abruptly. He had been away from O'Brien county thirty years. Like Rip Van Winkle, he had been in Oklahoma and asleep to O'Brien county. He broke out: "Say, Peck, where is that mule you rode in the Sanborn raid?

Where is that black beard you used to wear? I can't find any of the old doings. I just came down from Sheldon. I tried to look up that old angling road down at Primghar. It was all gone; no prairie, no prairie grass; can't take a big look across the prairie like I used to; there is no prairie. The big groves, and fences, and fields and barns, and squared roads and houses and crops blot it all out. I did find my old homestead shack in the back yard."

"Where is my Poor Dog Schneider?"

* * *

Woodman, spare that prairie
Plant not so many trees,
They blot out all the old scenes,
Prairie grass, like billowy seas.

* * *

O'BRIEN, THE GEM OF THE PRAIRIE.

Oh, O'Brien, the Gem of the Prairie,
When proud Iowa's form stands in view,
The old soldier on taps on his homestead,
Once more fighting his battles anew.
Life's mandates make heroes assemble,
On those broad plains of heaven's review,
Homesteader, old soldier, together, forever,
Borne out o'er that heavenly blue.

Chorus:

Three cheers for the wild red sweet william,
Three cheers for the white prairie flower,
Waiving grass for this blue prairie union,
Three cheers for the Red, White and Blue.

* * *

NINE POINTS IN LAW POSSESSION.

Nine sprigs of hair,
Leaves an old bald headed squatter,
Away up in the air.

* * *

There was an old squatter and his name was Uncle Ned.
He lived long, long, long ago,
His hair had no "possession" on the top of his head,
The place where the wool ought to grow.

An Old Haytwister lived so very, very old,
 Doctor Longshore pulled his teeth out free,
 He had no teeth for to eat the corn cake,
 So he had to let the corn cake be.

Chorus:

Then lay down the shubbel and the hoe,
 Hang up the twister and your dough,
 There's no more hard work for poor Uncle Ned,
 He's gone where the good squatters go.

* * *

JOHN KER, SQUATTER.

John Ker was an active squatter in Baker township, on the southeast quarter of section 15. He was incessantly in the fight. He was a wit. He made at least a score of trips to the land office at Des Moines in 1896-97 on his own and others' fights. Often more than thirty homesteaders and witnesses would go down on one train to the hearings. His witty get-offs and hits on the old settler and squatter would keep the whole car roaring with laughter. He got off the above "Nine Points of Possession" squib. That phrase "away up in the air" had a very serious meaning to those people who were in the courts for then twenty years. He often expressed it, "Boys, we're still away up in the air."

It seemed all but pitiful that he should have fought out with the rest his twenty-year fight and won out with the rest, but so persistently did the railroad contract man pursue the settler through all the courts, state and federal, that even as late as about 1904 this contract man got after him unawares, then an old man well in his dotage, when he actually signed up a contract on his claim for two thousand dollars and paid it off. As one can see, that was more than the whole land was worth when he commenced the long fight in 1884. But the old man was gritty. The homesteaders had no money. As the old man also got it off, that all he could do was to

Squat,
 Light,
 Take possession
 And fight.

* * *

The squatters and old homesteaders of 1870 were very much intermingled in these various fights. In fact, the pioneer, the homesteader, the

squatter and old soldier, it will be noticed, are at times used promiscuously. They were all fighting for free lands in this new country. It may seem at times that too much space is spent thus, but early times and these four individuals are somewhat synonymous.

When I can read my title clear,
Way down in Washington,
I'll hold down tight this homestead dear,
The best is just begun.
Lift up your heads, O Israel,
Land agents tell no lies,
It's all so good, the truth speaks out,
So wipe your weeping eyes.

* * *

THE PIONEER IS GOING GONE.

The pioneer is going gone,
By auction, what's your bid?
The old machine has had its day,
Old iron must be rid.

The homestead shack held down the claim,
Now stands in the back yard,
We let it stand just over where
They tried out fat and lard.

Wild zigzag prairie fires roared,
Like lightning streaks on land,
Bolting up to heaven soared,
Gone! Stamped on heaven's strand.

Angling roads on prairies vast,
Running everywhere,
Squared up farms their ruin worked,
They've done gone round the square.

Breaking plow long since gave way
To gang plow on the farm,
Prairie sod to mellow soil,
By farmer's strong right arm.

"Poor Injun," like the prairie sod,
 Could stand no pale face plow,
His range broke up, the deer shot down,
 That deer gave place to cow.

The wild prairie chicken soared,
 With yellow throat did "Oo,"
Upward, skyward on he went,
 And bade his last adieu.

The pioneer is going gone,
 Some with their debts and all,
'Twas but a part of "bitter sweet,"
 The bitter sweet with gall.

Old double shovel plows gave way,
 Hand planters stood on end,
The wire stretcher lands the drop,
 The corn in rows extend.

But e'en the debts are gone for aye,
 Public and private all,
Lift up your heads, ye sons of guns,
 And make a show, "play ball."

All plenty prairie pasture then,
 All plenty prairie hay,
But autos roam and horses lounge
 In clover all the day.

The rosin weed grew stout and tall,
 The child chewed rosin gum,
But now the penny slot machine
 Makes that boy a chewing bum.

The squatter, too, is growing old,
 He laughs his railroad joke,
He takes "possession" on the cars,
 And sues if neck is broke.

The price of land was then a joke,
 Two dollars fifty then,
 But now the joke, it will be soon,
 Two hundred fifty. "Ben."

Ye newer settlers give three cheers,
 Sound out your sixteen guns,
 Each township grand throughout the years,
 Your son's and grandson's sons.

* * *

My county 'tis of thee,
 Sweet land of homesteads free,
 It brings good cheer.
 I love its level land,
 Its prairie fires grand,
 My heart, it doth expand,
 A prairie king.

* * *

AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTY.

Mine eyes have seen the glories of O'Brien county soil,
 With its crops of corn and wheat and oats, result of patient toil,
 We have loosed the fateful corn plow, 'cross the field of growing corn,
 While the corn rows are growing tall.

Chorus:

Glory! Glory! Hatchin' chickens,
 Glory! Glory! Raisin' mules,
 Glory! Glory! Feedin' cattle,
 While the horse stands sleek in the stall.

'Tis an agricultural county, in an agricultural state,
 Where the people ne'er go hungry, but work early, long and late,
 Where at the chores they hustle, Oh, be jubilant their feet,
 While the scales weigh the butter 'neath the beam

Chorus:

Glory! Glory! Crows the rooster,
 Glory! Glory! Cackling hen,
 Glory! Glory! Supper's ready
 While the separator separates the cream.

The boys and girls are happy on O'Brien county farms,
 The whole family in chorus, mother's baby in her arms,
 The sons and daughters growing up at school throughout the day,
 While the housework is moving all day long.

Chorus:

Glory! Glory! In the garden,
 Glory! Glory! In the home,
 Glory! Glory! Washing dishes,
 Happy people with a happy, happy song.

* * *

This parody on "Marching Through Georgia," written by R. P. Jones, president of the Squatters' Union for all the years of that contest, was sung at the squatter sociables and gatherings. Every word in it could then be appreciated by them. On reading the Squatter chapter the reader, even if not conversant with the county, can likewise appreciate same.

MARCHING TO VICTORY.

(Air, "Marching Through Georgia.")

Come all ye merry squatters, we'll sing a glad, new song;
 'Tis the glorious jubilee, sing it as 'twas never sung,
 Sing it as if you meant it and sing it loud and strong,
 While we go marching to victory.

Chorus:

Hurrah! hurrah! another jubilee!
 Hurrah! hurrah! victory we see!
 Baker, Carroll, Floyd and Dale,
 Together sing with glee,
 While we go marching to victory.

O, how the squatters shouted when the news was spread around;
 And how contractors spouted when they found themselves aground;
 And how our wives and daughters send the chorus through the town,
 While we go marching to victory.

"The darn fool squatters will never win the fight."
 Said the contract bosses, and in this they took delight;
 They will be somewhat wiser, when they see the squatter's in the right.
 While we go marching to victory.

Harken to the shouting o' the joyful sound;
How the children prattle as they hop and skip around;
See their beaming faces as their parents they surround,
While we go marching to victory.

Yes, I see old men and women shedding joyful tears,
When they hear the glorious news they have waited for, for years;
Now we hear the joyous greeting, ring out the glad cheers,
While we go marching to victory.

The lords of contracts tremble when they hear our joyous shout,
As we press on to victory and put them all to rout,
The trusts and pools and money kings, we'll whip the rascals out,
While we go marching to victory.

Now contractors don't turn pale, you needn't tremble so;
But then there is a thing or two which you will have to know;
Those who work against the right, will surely have to go,
While we go marching to victory.

We'll raise our fathers' banner, boys, and spread it out on high;
Beneath the sacred stars and stripes, all hail the power of right;
The hand is writing on the wall, "Go, cast the devils out!"
While we go marching to victory.

* * *

MY OLD O'BRIEN HOME.

Let us all hark back to the old prairie days,
To the days of that old sod shanty home.
We will sing one song of the homestead days now past,
When we chewed the rosin gum, boy and chile'.
Let us sound one note to the prairie chicken wild,
As the prairie fire burned his nest away,
Let the haytwister turn the spindle shank around,
While we fill once more the stove with sticks of hay.

Chorus:

Weep no more, old soldier,
Old settler on the claim.
We will sing one song of that old O'Brien home,
While the better days have come to stay the while.

In the county-seat contest of 1911, C. A. Babcock, then of Sanborn, now of Sheldon, espoused the side of the latter town energetically in some twelve successive letters in the papers from week to week during the ninety days contest. He was cartooned as dreaming in his bed under a patent quilt made from his letters and speeches on the county-seat question as "A Dreamer," in the following parody:

Last night as I lay sleeping,
 There came a dream so fair (to me).
 I stood in grand old Sheldon,
 Beside the court house there.
 I heard the children singing,
 And even as they sang
 Me-thought the voice of angels
 From heaven in answer rang,
 Sheldon, Sheldon, Hamilton in the highest,
 Sheldon will be your king.
 And then me-thought my dream was changed.
 The streets no longer rang;
 Hush'd were the loud hosannas
 The little children sang;
 The Sun (*Sheldon Sun*) grew dark with envy,
 The morn was cold and drear,
 As the shadow of Primghar arose,
 For lo, the court house was still there;
 Primghar, Primghar, how the bell does ring,
 Primghar is your king.

* * *

MORE TALK THAN ACTION.

County seat talk is in the air,
 Primghar's stirring in its lair.
 Not a gun has yet been fired,
 Not a man has yet expired.
 All quiet down the line.
 Old Prim's going it pell mell,
 Says she'll build a new hotel;
 Sheldon people do not groan,
 Sheldon's waiting to be shown;
 Only talking down the line.

In her sad and dismal plight,
Primghar talks electric light.
That town's cutting quite a caper,
Building lots of things on paper.
More talking down the line.

Primghar people can't refrain,
Talking of an extra train.
Talk is cheap and mighty thin,
Makes I. C. officials grin.
Chin music down the line.

When it comes election day,
When the people have their say,
Primghar's bubbles will be busted,
Cause the voters can be trusted.
Dense stillness down the line.

* * *

LET THE PEOPLE VOTE.

If the Schee substitute had been complete,
Primghar would keep the county seat.
But before the Senate got ready to go,
She killed it dead, and gave Sheldon a show.

Primghar is all right for the kind she has been,
But she had no hotels to shelter us in.
While Sheldon has four—with a mortgage on some,
And plenty of room for all who may come.

When we think of the time that Prim's been the hub,
For forty years the dear people have stood the grand rub.
Now why shouldn't they vote to move it some day,
And place it where you can get there and away.

While Prim had her friends in the halls of our state,
To see that they didn't make any mistake,
They tackled amendments to the bills all in line,
And made it a special to apply only to O'Brien.

The House passed it through with amendments all straight,
But the Senate said "No, you're a little too late;
The petition is signed and filed by the clerk,
While Prim with remonstrance is still at her work."

The people have said with pen and with ink,
That they sure want to vote on their own county seat;
If Prim with remonstrance should then fail to delve,
We will move her to Sheldon in year nineteen twelve.

And when we get there with court house complete,
We won't go to bed any more with cold feet;
We will not go hungry, 'cause we at tables can line,
At places where dinner is always on time.

Now, Prim will not blame me I know the least bit,
For what I have written I've seen it in print,
But when later you come to our county seat fair,
We'll make you so glad, you'll be glad you've been there.

* * *

PRIMGHAR WINDS UP THE MUSIC BOX.

Next to the boys in the gray and the blue,
We cherish our works that no one shall outdo;
Among these tall trees forty years we have stood,
We have weather'd the blast 'mong the bad and the good.

We and our children all gladly unite,
To have and to hold this county seat by right.
Billy Boies and the *Sun* have had lots to say.
But they're not the whole cheese in this county-seat fray.

By the great big horn spoons, and healthy dutch cheese,
We'll hold the town down, when we sweat, when we freeze;
We'll anchor her down with the new Hub hotel,
Now give us three cheers and a county seat yell.

A FREE PRESCRIPTION GIVEN WITH THIS HISTORY.

It was Dr. Clanning Longshore,
In the early homestead day;
A kid climbed to the cupboard—
Concentrated lye! Dismay!

"My God!" the Doctor shouted,
"Open up his mouth and lid,
Pour down the lard right quickly;
Make a kittle of the kid.

"Stir up his fussen stomach,
Keep up your grit and hope,
Keep him wiggling, twisting, squirming,
And make it into soap."

The above was an actual occurrence in the family of homesteader John Griffith, on the southwest quarter of section 2, in Carroll township, with Doctor Longshore called suddenly five miles out of Sheldon. It was the actual prescription. The child was saved. The Doctor knew how to make soap and neutralize the deadly effect. This history is not a medical journal, but this prescription is donated free with the history, even as Doctor Longshore donated enough free practice in the early day, driving hither and thither, in day time and night time, enough to make a man rich if paid for at mileage rates. Those best acquainted with the sometimes eccentric doctor will fully appreciate the above as a characteristic item.

* * *

AN OLD HOMESTEAD SHACK.

Good-by, old shack; time's relentless rigor
Has ground you up at last to shapeless dust;
But faithfully have you performed your trust,
And sheltered manly worth and moral vigor.

Good by, old shack; lead off as back yard slivers,
Shivered! Shivered! To hold the rubbish and the must,
So mournfully we will relieve you of your trust,
Thence to the modern house relieving us of shivers.

A graven image of a young lady mounted in the court yard at Primghar at expense of some liberal citizens did not meet with full approbation of the critically artistic members of the community and was finally returned to its former owners at Sheldon. Before its departure D. A. W. Perkins penned the following skit:

You're a daisy, a darling, Miss Primghar,
You are sweet as a full blown rose;
You're an angel in marble, Miss Primghar,
From your head clean down to your toes.

I believe you are in love, Miss Primghar,
Your sad look is only disguise;
Though silent, you're restless, Miss Primghar,
There's mystery seen in your eyes.

Perhaps you are homesick, Miss Primghar,
And long for dear Sheldon again;
Or maybe you're bashful, Miss Primghar,
And want to be hid from the men.

You're scantily clad, Miss Primghar,
A cold winter will follow this fall;
Have "Pomp" and the mayor, Miss Primghar,
Buy a bonnet, some gloves and a shawl.

You must be tired, Miss Primghar,
Your seat there is cold and hard;
Perhaps you'd feel better, Miss Primghar,
With a loving and lively "pard."

* * *

"LEEDLE YOH."

This leedle Deitcher poy so schmall,
Sendt to der schools by Mah,
He vas so very bashful dot
He vouldt only answer "Yoh."

Und ven der teachers schpoke him oudt,
Der poy said "Yes'em, yes sah."
Der only dings dot he vouldt schpoke,
All he vouldt say vas "Yoh."

He learndt some dings all day mit schools,
He schtored dem mit his headt,
He schtudied hardt, he learndt der rules,
At nichtd he vendt to bedt.

He grew up schtrong, der brimmers soon
Vas done, den bigger books,
Der teachers und der schkollars all
Schtared him mit jealous looks.

At nichtd he always vent schtrate home,
Und helped mit all der schores,
He fed the hogs und schlopped der cows,
Und lockdt up dem barn doors.

He learndt to ride dot big gang plow,
Mit horses four apreast,
He huskt mit corn, a man he grew,
Made monies like der rest.

Den ven dot farm dem mans der sell,
Price one hundred fifty, Oh—
He saved dem dollars, dimes und cents,
Und vonce more he saidt "Yoh."

He bot dot big O'Brien farm,
Und settled down, hoorah,
Und taught his childers on his knee,
How he always answered "Yoh."

The thrifty Germans form two-fifths of the population of O'Brien county. The German accent is much heard in the schools. The subject of this poem was a bashful little five-year-old German lad in one of the district schools of O'Brien county. For a whole month the only response the teacher could get from him was "Yoh." He later on became a proficient scholar.

WHEN THE SQUATTER SQUATTED HIS SQUAT.

We've often read of that old-old saw,
How possession is always nine points of the law.
When the squatter squatted his squat and "lit,"
With his jaw set firm and his lips he bit.
Possession he took by his own good right,
And built his shack shanty even through a dark night.
Now let us right here make the best record mark,
Since Noah and kids came out of the ark.
Let us show those haughty, proud railroad galoots,
How a hayseed homesteader licks 'em out of their boots.
Now Congress had granted those lands as a prize
To the road that first built, that the country might rise.
But a clause therein said, they must build as they went,
And earn it all honest by an honest per cent.
For each mile of railroad ten sections of land
Would give them a title by patent to stand.
But the Sioux City road when it got to LeMars,
By astrology thought out a trick 'mong the stars.
As for the fool squatter, they never will count,
With their old hayseed breeches and shacks, "Turn 'em out."
And fool the fool Congress by this trick all so bold,
By leasing the Central—You're "sold" all so cold.
But the squatter squatted his squat, as we've told,
And showed them a trick of true honesty old.
They went to the courts and showed up that lease;
The courts said to the railroads, "That fraud you must cease."
That first thirty days' right the squatter shall have,
The railroads may sputter and threaten and rave.
But the squatter is there by the right of his squat,
As said by decree in its supreme court hot shot.
The squatter thus turned a trick that was rare,
Like Kipling's "Fuzzy Wuzzy's," who first broke an English square.
Your old railroad contracts with such men as Gotlieb Schwartz,
In a court stands as high as so many warts.
We'll cut you all off by surgical skill,
Let the law have its sway, the squatter his will.

Give the squatter a chance in this land of the best
 As good as a home in that heavenly rest.
 Call up R. P. Jones and your staunch M. D. Finch,
 Representing the squatter who never did flinch.
 And tell them they've got a good home without lie'n,
 In the good of the goodest of grandest O'Brien.

Note—Gottlieb Schwartz was one of the main men who held a large number of the railroad contracts against the squatter.

* * *

GOLD, SILVER AND DIAMONDS.

PRECIOUS METALS DISCOVERED IN O'BRIEN COUNTY.

O'Brien soil—	O'Brien pasture,
Let truth be told,	A diamond plat,
Its yellow corn	All a kicken
A mine of gold.	Mule at the bat.
Its wheat and oats,	Steer on first base,
When harvest done,	Horse scores a run,
A silver mine	Hogs do rooten,
Sixteen to one.	Sheep fans have fun.

O'Brien farm
 Grows grain and kine;
 Let all play ball,
 A diamond mine.

* * *

AGRICULTURAL.

Silver and gold have I none,
 Neither zinc nor lead nor brass,
 The metal is the soil itself—

It's grain,
 It's stock,
 It's grass.

* * *

FINIS.

In squiblets and couplets
 O'Brien we've told
 As well as we could
 Fifty-eight years old.

1856-1914.



OSCEOLA COUNTY COURT HOUSE



PRIMGHAR'S SPLENDID HOTEL, THE "HUB"

HISTORY OF OSCEOLA COUNTY

CHAPTER I.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY.

This county was originally an open prairie, and destitute of timber of any kind with the exception of a little willow brush that had escaped the annual prairie fires along Ocheyedan creek. The Ocheyedan and Otter creeks are the only streams of importance. Ocheyedan creek has its source in a small lake of the same name in Nobles county, Minnesota, about two miles north of the northern boundary of this county, the same being the state line. There are a few ranges of low hills along either side of the Ocheyedan, but seldom on opposite sides. One conical shaped hill, called the Ocheyedan mound, is about one mile from the stream, and is the highest point in the vicinity. This stream crosses the county from north to south and was originally a very crooked stream. It bears somewhat to the east and empties into the Sioux river in Clay county, near Spencer. The lower ten or twelve miles of this stream in this county has been straightened in recent years, thereby improving the land very much in its vicinity. Otter creek rises in a big slough near Bigelow, across the state line in Minnesota, and crosses the county in a southwesterly direction, passing out of the county at the southwest corner. It then runs west into East Rock, also known as the Little Rock river, in Lyon county. The land along both of these streams is nearly all tillable and excellent farming ground.

There are no lakes of importance in this county. The largest is Rush lake, near the village of Ocheyedan, which covers about five hundred and forty-eight acres, varying a little with the season. There are sloughs connected by streams that contain water in wet seasons and were originally called Chain lakes. These are being ditched and are making some of the best land in the county.

The soil is a dark prairie loam with a clay subsoil. This subsoil is somewhat porous, which causes the land to stand either wet or dry seasons very well. Some search has been made along the streams and in the Ocheyedan mound and although some indications of coal were found no minerals of importance were ever discovered. The general altitude of the county varies from one thousand four hundred to one thousand five hundred feet, with a few higher points, and is the highest region in the state. The surface of the land is generally rolling, with a small level district in the eastern part of the county and another in the western part. The soil is from two to four feet deep and of fine quality, free from stone, and, with proper cultivation and rotation of crops, is practically inexhaustible.

In the year 1859, Jefferson Davis, who later became president of the Southern Confederacy and served in that capacity during the War of the Rebellion, was surveying for the United States government and at the same time had command of the United States troops in the Northwest. He was instructed by the United States government to mark the boundaries of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Dakota. In his survey he located the northwestern corner of Iowa, the southwestern corner of Minnesota and the east line of Dakota, a short distance southeast of Rowena, South Dakota, and marked the spot with an iron stake. No question of the correctness of his work has ever been raised. The point to be recorded here is the fact that so distinguished a man as Jefferson Davis, in his report of this survey, said that within a radius of one hundred miles of this iron stake was found what he considered the richest soil in the world. Time has verified his judgment to a wonderful degree. During this year (1914) of short crops in many parts of the country there is a bountiful crop throughout all of that one hundred mile limit from this iron stake, and Osceola county falls well within this territory.

ORGANIZATION OF OSCEOLA COUNTY.

Osceola county was named after a Seminole Indian chief, the acknowledged head of a band of Indians who inhabited the Everglades of Florida. It does not appear why a northern county was named after an Indian who lived so far to the south and it is not known that he ever came north. He died in Fort Moultrie where he was sent by the United States government after he was captured and his tribe was subdued in 1837. However, it is quite a pleasant sounding name and old settlers who still survive, whether living in the county or elsewhere, have learned to love the sound of the word Osceola.

When the first settlers began to turn their attention to this part of the

state it was known that a railroad was to go through from St. Paul to Sioux City, but it was not known where it would run. The settlers tried to get in ahead of the railroad and each one made a guess as to where it would go and where the county seat would be located. The road eventually crossed the county a little farther west than most of the settlers expected. Before the railroad came there were several wagon roads or trails into or across the county. One trail led from Spirit Lake to Sioux Falls, crossing the county from east to west; another trail led into the county from Cherokee; still another from LeMars and still another from Worthington. At first, of course, there were no bridges, but soon two were built, one across the Ocheyedan and another crossing the Otter.

When the railroad was completed to Sibley, in June, 1872, all wagon trails pointed towards that town, the first town site to be laid out. The next town site was Ashton, in Gilman township, although first called Saint Gilman. Sibley was early selected as the county seat, owing to its central location. The first mail reached this county by way of LeMars, in Plymouth county, and was distributed at Shaw's store, which was located on the bank of the Otter creek in Gilman township on section 32 not far from the present town of Ashton. Mr. Shaw later moved his store to Ashton and it was the first store in that thrifty town. His original store building still stands on the main street of Ashton and is used as a poolroom and lunch counter. Mr. Shaw moved to Oregon in 1888 and is reported dead. The first postoffices were at Sibley and Ashton and were established soon after the railroad was completed to those towns. When the people received daily mails, instead of weekly, by way of LeMars and Shaw's store they thought they were metropolitan.

When the first settlers came to the territory now embraced within this county it was a part of Woodbury county. Therefore, Woodbury county had to set Osceola up in business for itself, which it did in 1871, and the story cannot better be told than to quote from the records of Woodbury county: "State of Iowa, Woodbury County.

"I, George W. Wakefield, auditor of Woodbury county, Iowa, do hereby certify that at the June session, A. D. 1871, of the board of supervisors of Woodbury county, to-wit: on the sixth day of June, A. D. 1871, the following proceedings were had, to-wit: Resolved that the county of Osceola in the state of Iowa be organized at the general election of 1871. Resolved, that three townships be formed out of the county of Osceola in the state of Iowa, to-wit: all of township 98 of ranges 39, 40, 41 and 42 shall compose one

township to be known and called Goewey township. All of township 99, ranges 39, 40, 41 and 42 shall compose one township to be known and called Holman township, and all of township 100 of ranges 39, 40, 41 and 42 shall compose one township to be known and called Horton township. Resolved, that an election be held for the election of township and county officers at the general election for 1871, to be held as follows, to-wit: in Goewey township, at the house of E. Huff; in Holman township, at the house of A. M. Culver; in Horton township, at the house of H. R. Fenton. Resolved, that the question of whether the provisions of chapter one hundred and forty-four, of the laws of the twelfth General Assembly of the State of Iowa, shall be enforced in Osceola county, Iowa, shall be submitted to the legal voters of said county at the general election of 1871, as provided in said chapter. Resolved, that the proper officers are hereby authorized and instructed to do and take all necessary steps to have these resolutions carried into effect. Resolved, that the auditor be instructed to assess the lands of Osceola county at two dollars an acre."

Following this was a resolution levying taxes on the taxable property of Osceola county, totaling forty mills or four per cent. The general election was held in accordance with the foregoing authorization, resulting in the election of the following county officers: Frank M. Robinson, auditor; A. M. Culver, treasurer; D. L. McCausland, recorder; Cyrus M. Brooks, clerk of courts; Delila Stiles, superintendent of schools; J. D. Hall, coroner; John Beaumont, drainage commissioner; M. J. Campbell, surveyor; George Spaulding, H. R. Fenton and J. H. Winspear, county commissioners or supervisors.

Thus was organized a county government over as fair a section of country as was possible to be found with the exception that it was treeless. Some years before the settlement of this county, the author in writing to a lawyer friend in Spirit Lake asked for information about this country and he replied at length. In the course of his letter he stated that west of Spirit Lake and immediate neighborhood the land was not fit for white settlement as it was a vast treeless plain fit only for buffaloes and Indians. In fact, a part of it was then known as the Great American Desert.

The first convention for the nomination of county officers was held July 4, 1872. The convention was called by a number of the homesteaders and presided over by H. G. Doolittle, of Sibley. It was held on the Culver homestead, which was located on section 24, township 99, range 42. The following pioneers were placed in nomination for the various county offices, to-wit:

For auditor, McDonald; for treasurer, Captain E. Huff; for recorder, D. L. McCausland; for sheriff, Jeff Cutshall; for superintendent of schools, Delila Stiles; for clerk of courts, Cyrus M. Brooks; for supervisors, A. M. Culver, H. R. Fenton and George Spaulding. F. M. Robinson was the independent candidate for auditor. The vote for auditor resulted in a tie between McDonald and Robinson and was decided by lot in favor of Robinson. D. L. McCausland was absent teaching school when the time arrived for him to take charge of the recorder's office, and John Beaumont was appointed to fill his place. In the meantime, McCausland had forwarded his bond by mail and after some difficulty got possession of his office.

Osceola county was cursed then, as many other counties were at the time, with an influx of grafters and looters whose sole occupation, seemingly, was to prey upon the newly organized counties and loot the county treasuries to their hearts' content. The "gang," of which detailed mention is made in another chapter of the history, likewise placed a ticket in nomination and imported floaters and fraudulent voters to win at the subsequent fall election.

The leaders of the gang prevailed upon Mr. Culver to take the nomination for treasurer so as to give strength and respectability to the rather doubtful ticket which they proposed to place in nomination. The "gang" wished Culver to run for treasurer in order to make room for J. H. Winspear, who wanted to run for supervisor.

Mr. Doolittle and others tried to prevail upon Mr. Culver to refuse the doubtful honors which the gang wished to thrust upon him, but their pleadings were of no avail and he was elected treasurer along with the "gang" nominees. Then began a period of looting which was unsurpassed for the short period of time in which they were in power. The county treasury was looted to the tune of over twenty-two thousand dollars in a few months, all of which the taxpayers were forced to pay in the end.

So brazen and lavish were the expenditures made by the "gang" that the people soon became thoroughly aroused to the enormity of the official government of the county and made up their minds to throw the grafters out. A special grand jury was held in the following spring which was presided over by H. G. Doolittle. Indictments were found against every county official who had participated in the looting and they were placed under bonds of one hundred dollars each, the object being to drive them from the county and allow them to escape without further trouble. All left the county and forfeited their bonds.

Mr. Culver opposed every fraudulent action of the gang and stood like

a rock against the wholesale grafting indulged in by the gang. He did everything in his power to bring them to justice and stop their nefarious work.

In the proceedings of the Woodbury county board, in canvassing the returns of the vote of Osceola county, it appears that the length of terms the three supervisors was to hold was determined by lot. The drawing for terms allowed George Spaulding to hold office three years; H. R. Fenton, two years; and J. H. Winspear, one year. Thus a kind divinity shaped things, as Winspear, who was the leader and furnished the brains for whatever swindling was practiced on this county in the early days of its history, drew the short term of one year. At the next general election in the fall of 1872, Capt. D. L. Riley was elected supervisor of Holman township and from that time to the present county affairs have been honestly conducted.

However, during that first year, under the leadership and plotting of Winspear, the county was saddled with a debt of about forty thousand dollars for which it had very little to show. That debt, however, has long since been paid and the county is now practically out of debt.

ROSTER OF COUNTY OFFICIALS.

Auditor—F. M. Robinson, Wallace W. Moore, James S. Reynolds, George W. Thomas, V. A. Burley.

Treasurer—A. M. Culver, S. A. Wright, Levi Shell, H. C. Hungerford, R. S. Hall, J. B. Lent, J. E. Townsend, Dick Wassmann, A. J. Tatum, A. Wachtel and H. E. Richards.

Recorder—D. L. McCausland, E. Huff, Mrs. C. I. Hill, S. S. Parker, W. H. Gates, Charles A. Chambers, Joe Reagan and O. A. Metz.

Clerk of District Court—Cyrus M. Brooks, John F. Glover, William J. Miller, J. S. Davison, J. B. Mead, W. H. Kimberly, Will Thomas, A. W. McCallum, J. P. Hawxhurst and Otto J. Frey.

Sheriff—Frank Stiles, John H. Douglass, J. B. Lent, J. F. Stamm, Frank Desmond, Frank L. Stevens, E. S. Robertson and Joseph Gill.

Superintendent of Schools—Delila Stiles, Dr. J. M. Jenkins, W. J. Miller, Dr. C. L. Gurney, Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Dr. W. R. Lawrence, J. R. Elliott, W. J. Reeves, F. W. Hahn, Charles Lowrey, T. S. Redmond, J. P. McKinley, J. R. Wilson and Mary E. DeBoos.

Surveyor—M. J. Campbell, H. G. Doolittle, John A. Flower, Walter Barler and L. A. Wilson.

Coroner—J. M. Jenkins, W. R. Lawrence, W. H. Barkhuff, H. Neill, W. E. Ely, G. B. Palmer, L. H. Heetland, F. S. Hough and D. C. Steelsmith.

County Attorney—G. W. Lister, J. F. Glover, C. M. Brooks, W. C. Garberson and O. J. Clark.

Board of Supervisors—J. H. Winspear, George Spaulding, H. R. Fenton, Titus E. Perry, D. L. Riley, H. L. Emmert, O. Dunton, B. F. Mundorf, A. H. Brown, C. W. Wyllys, Henry C. Allen, Robert Stamm, Nicholas Boor, William Mowthorp, George S. Downend, George W. Barrager, Albert Romey, S. A. Dove, Carlos P. Reynolds, James E. Townsend, C. W. Conner, A. Batie, P. A. Cajacob, W. H. Noehren, Charles Bangert, F. H. Hunt, William Truckenniller, Nick Leinen, J. C. Ward, John Wehmeyer, C. M. Higley, Herman Haack, Henry Schmall, John Wehsinger, W. J. Reeves, H. C. Hattendorf, A. B. Snider, B. Klosterman, John W. Lindaman and L. J. Philips.

FIRST COURT AND GRAND JURY.

The first term of court was held in July, 1872. The officers of the court were Henry Ford, judge; C. H. Lewis, district attorney; Frank Stiles, sheriff; Cyrus Brooks, clerk. The grand jury consisted of the following: H. G. Doolittle (foreman), Benj. A. Dean, J. L. Robinson, E. Morrison, J. I. Halstead, A. M. Culver, M. Thompson, J. Schlect, Henry Babcock, J. W. Kerr, T. J. Cutshall, Charles Mandeville, R. F. Kinnie, D. L. Riley and C. Dunton. The only members of that grand jury still living, so far as known, are H. G. Doolittle, of Sibley, who is spending his declining years in comfort; Charles Mandeville, who this year moved from Sibley to Holden, Kansas, and Rev. Benjamin A. Dean, who is still preaching and now has a charge at Hildreth, Nebraska.

FIRST COURT HOUSE.

The old frame court house was built in 1872 and when completed was about all the county had to show for its forty-thousand-dollar debt. The sessions of the board of supervisors, before the completion of the court house, were held in a small frame building in Sibley on Tenth street and the building, now used for junk storage, is still standing in a dilapidated condition.

FINANCE.

When Woodbury county set Osceola county up in business in 1871 it authorized its county auditor to assess Osceola county lands at two dollars an

acre. But as there was very little deeded land in the county the revenue from land tax was very light. The railroad paid a small tax. However, the railroad land was in controversy on account of litigation arising from a claim of the Chicago & Milwaukee railroad claiming the land under a former government indemnity grant. The title to the land in the meantime rested in the United States government and consequently the land was not subject to taxation. This litigation was settled in the courts in the year 1877, and was at once offered for sale and put on the tax list of 1878. Prior to that time the only land on which taxes were collected was a little land of the speculators and a few tracts entered under the pre-emption act. The homesteaders had to prove five years' residence before final proof for a patent could be made, with the exception that soldiers of the Civil War could get credit for the time served in the army. Some old soldiers did not embrace that privilege for the reason that land was not subject to taxation until its title was proved. About the same time the railroad land came in for taxation nearly all the homesteaders had deeds to their land, so that the list of taxable property suddenly increased and the county revenues were correspondingly enhanced. The assessed value of all taxable property in the county in 1873 was \$439,964.00; the taxable value was \$109,991.00 and the total amount of taxes levied was \$5,553.76.

In 1880 when the railroad land was listed for taxation and the homesteaders had proved their titles, the total assessed value jumped to \$700,368.00 and the total taxes for collection increased to \$31,703.01. The tax list of 1890 shows a healthy gain, some of it by reason of the natural increase in the price of land, but more largely on account of the increase in personal and town property. The total valuation that year was \$1,577,095.00 and the total tax levied was \$59,118.51. In 1900 the total valuation shows at \$2,183,150.00 with a tax levy of \$87,862.51, while in 1910 the total valuation was swelled to the respectable sum of \$3,363,871.00 and the tax to be collected run up to \$140,162.07.

The foregoing is but a fair illustration of the increase in the value of land generally. The first land was bought under the pre-emption law and brought two dollars and fifty cents an acre. The same land now sells from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars an acre. Some well improved farms near town are worth two hundred dollars an acre. The mileage of railroad bed in 1873 was seventeen and ninety-eight hundredths miles. In 1913 it was as follows: The Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, seventeen and ninety-eight hundredths miles, assessed at \$1,004,724.00 and taxed for one quarter of that valuation. The main line of the Chicago,

Rock Island & Pacific is assessed on twenty-six and twenty-nine hundredths miles and valued at \$771,872.00, while the Gowrie & North Western, which is a branch of the same line, shows thirteen and thirty-three hundredths miles, valued at \$391,368.00. This makes a total mileage of fifty-seven and sixty hundredths miles of railroad property on which taxes are collected in this county. The telegraph lines are recorded at fifty-seven and eighteen hundredths miles and valued at \$18,296.00. The miles of telephone in the county as shown on the books are five hundred and thirty-six and valued at \$13,167.00.

CHAPTER II.

ALLISON TOWNSHIP.

This township was first set off as a part of Ocheyedan township and was called East Ocheyedan. It was later organized into a separate township with the following officers: Trustees—John Logan, J. C. Wilmarth and James Hall; clerk—M. A. Benson; assessor—J. W. Luke; justices of the peace—J. C. Stewart and C. E. Benson; constables—James Kilpatrick and James Mercer. The present officers are as follows: Trustees—Earl Beck, W. J. Burley and J. L. Timmons; clerk—C. C. Wilmarth; assessor—C. M. Lamb.

This township has no town, railroad, or churches. The most of the government land in this township was secured by patent, by the use of land scrip or railroad indemnity land in 1870, before the rush of homesteaders came into the county.

Section 2. This section was at first taken by speculators. Later Martin Ziehr bought on section 2 and by industry and good judgment has built up a fine improved farm.

Section 3. On section 3 is A. Miller, a thrifty German farmer, who is doing well.

Section 4. On section 4 we find George Forbes, who is happy and prosperous.

Section 6. Samuel B. Everett, Robert S. Hall, Albert B. March, Henry C. March and Fred H. Hunt constituted a part of what was known as the New England settlement. Robert S. Hall was elected county treasurer, held the office three terms and made a good and efficient officer. He moved from here to Long Pine, Nebraska, where he engaged in the lumber business and later in the banking business and made some money. He is now retired and living in LaMesa, California. He and his wife visited in Sibley and vicinity recently and are in good health for people of their age. H. C. March is dead and Albert March recently sold his holdings here and moved to Missouri. Fred Hunt and his son are still living on the original claim and are among the prosperous farmers of the county. Fred Hunt was at one time county supervisor. Mrs. Hunt, who was a March, died last year. She was a leading spirit in the east end of the county and is greatly missed.



MAP OF ALLISON TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

Section 9. Benson and son are prosperous farmers who came from the east. Father Benson lost his wife here and later married again and moved to eastern Iowa, leaving his son to attend to the farm..

Section 10. C. W. Worrick bought a fine three-hundred-and-twenty-acre improved farm and makes a specialty of stock.

Section 14. Among other early settlers, not homesteaders, appears the name of George Thomas on section 14. He later moved to Harris and engaged in the mercantile business and was the first mayor of that town; later, he was elected county auditor and served with credit three terms. He is now living in California. Another early settler on section 14 was James Hall, whose wife was a sister of George Thomas. Mr. Hall sold and moved to northern Minnesota, where he died a few years ago. His wife survives him. The Hall farm is now owned by O. A. Metz, the present county recorder.

Section 17. Charles Waters on section 17 is another good example of what industry will accomplish in this country.

Section 24. Earl Beck came to this section a few years ago with little or nothing and now owns a two-hundred-and-forty-acre farm.

Section 33. Joseph Smith is a substantial farmer on this section.

This township supports nine public schools, but no church within its borders. The people worship in Ocheyedan, Harris, or in a country church just across the line in Dickinson county. The whole township is now cut up into well improved farms and is a very prosperous community.

BAKER TOWNSHIP.

A large amount of the best land in this township was taken by speculators before the homesteaders could get a chance to enter it. The Des Moines Valley Railroad Company secured under an indemnity claim sections 4, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 23 and 24. David C. Shepard secured sections 12, 26 and 34 on college land scrip. John Lawler obtained on some kind of land scrip, sections 32 and 36. Thus homesteaders were deprived of about one-half of the land in this township that ought to have been left open to homestead entry. It was all very fine land and those who got it would have been very indignant if they had been charged with stealing it. However, the grasshopper scourge coming on soon after the land was secured and having to pay taxes on it so long before it was saleable, and then only at hard-time prices, these land speculators did not realize as much profit as might be thought.

Section 2. Hermon Runyan settled on this section and kept a few cows

and managed to get through the grasshopper times with his large family. Afterwards he prospered and passed into easy circumstances, retiring to the village of Ochevedan where he died a few years ago. Gideon Thompson also settled here, but sold and left the country without making much impression. Elmer R. Hazen was a carpenter by trade and depended on work to carry him through the hard times. He was a big strong man and a good workman, but a periodical drinker. He would complete a job and then get drunk. When tipsy it was his boast that he was Elmer R. Hazen, the noble and grand. He had a peculiar experience in Sibley along in the eighties. On completion of a school house in his township, he settled for his work and then came to Sibley to pay his lumber bill and get drunk. After settling his bill he had about one hundred and forty dollars left when he went to the saloon. W. J. Miller saw him go in the saloon and knew what it meant. A few hours later Miller went to the saloon to look him up and found him in a maudlin condition. Miller said, "Hazen, give me your money," and he handed over his pocket book. About three days later Hazen called at Miller's office, pretty well sobered up, but crying. Upon inquiry as to the trouble he said some one had stolen his money. After berating him a while for getting drunk and having so much money with him, Miller turned to his safe and handed him the pocketbook and told him to count it and see if it was all there. It would be useless to attempt to portray the expression on Hazen's countenance upon finding his money. He had no recollection of having surrendered it. Samuel A. Colby, who settled on this section, made little impression.

Section 3. P. Boss came here in 1902 with a small amount of capital and now owns five hundred and forty acres in this township. He made it in general farming and stock raising, handling principally black cattle.

Section 6. Here was James Morrison and William R. Clement, neither of whom remained very long. William H. Lean remained long on his claim and became well to do. He served as a member of the board of supervisors several terms and was an influential man in his township. Wallace M. Moore was a one-armed old soldier and was elected county auditor to succeed Frank Robinson. The convention that nominated Moore was stampeded over the cry for "One-armed Moore." Many thought Frank Robinson, who had served efficiently and honestly, ought to have another term, but the convention ran wild for "One-Armed Moore." Mr. Moore made a faithful and capable officer and was reelected several times. After retiring he moved to Mt. Vernon where he died.

Section 8. Here was Henry Babcock, who was an energetic fellow

and, being from the state of New York, he knew the value of cows. Consequently a few cows and some young cattle carried him through the hard times. In later years he sold here and moved to a farm a few miles south of Sioux City where he died a few years ago.

Orvis Foster settled on this section. Mr. Foster was having quite a hard time to get along, so Henry Babcock, who was school director for that district, proposed that Mrs. Foster teach their school, which was made up of a few small children. Consequently Mrs. Foster presented herself before the county superintendent of schools for examination and failed. Finally it was arranged that if every one in that district, having children of school age, would sign a written request for Mrs. Foster to be allowed to teach the school, the superintendent would give her a permit. Such request was signed and a permit was then issued. She taught several terms and gave satisfaction. That was another way of bridging a family over the hard times and at that time was all right. William Shipley made little impression.

Frank Thayer clung to his claim as long as he was able to work. He was postmaster of Gopher postoffice a long time. When unable to work he sold and retired to Sibley where he and his wife died.

Section 9. A. Knox came in 1891 and bought one hundred and sixty acres on time and now has six hundred and forty acres in this township, all made by general farming.

Section 10. Lewis Klatt is getting along nicely on his three-hundred-and-twenty-acre farm.

Section 11. H. and J. Legate are prosperous and industrious farmers and in a few years will be wealthy.

Section 12. Clark Howard has prospered so well that he is already leading the retired life in Ocheyedan.

On section 13 is L. H. Holle, a thrifty farmer and stock raiser.

On section 15 is John G. Benz, who is getting rich and buying more land.

Sections 16 and 17. Five Frey brothers came from northern Illinois, and bought on sections 16 and 17 in this township and all prospered. Dirk Frey, who proved to be quite a leader in Baker township, settled on section 17 and prospered so well that a few years ago he retired with a nice competence. He now lives at his ease in Sibley, where for many years his son, Otto J. Frey, was clerk of district court. Dirk Frey was justice of the peace many years in Baker township.

Section 18. Jake Brandt donated ground for a co-operative store and, on account of the great distance from town, it prospered until the Gowrie branch was built through that part of the county. That store saved the

farmers of the neighborhood much money and time as well as many miles travel. When that store was started they scoured a postoffice and called it Melvin. The postoffice of Gopher was discontinued and all got their mail at Melvin. When the railroad was built, and a town established, it continued under the name of Melvin. Henry Klappine left quite early. Henry Simmons sold in 1873. Fred Frisbee filed on this section but lived principally in Sheldon where he and his brother engaged in the livery business for many years. In the meantime they handled real estate and became quite wealthy. Later they invested in bank stock extensively. Mr. Frisbee still owns his original homestead. Frank H. Quiggle also settled on section 18 and still owns and lives on his claim. Elmer Simmons sold and left early.

Section 20. Henry Dunkelmann was a sturdy German and very industrious. He hung on through all the hard times and at last won out. Of late years he has been leading a retired life on the old farm about one mile from Melvin. When Henry Dunkelmann located in this county in the spring of 1872, there came with him a young German of noble birth and filed on an eighty-acre claim on the same section with Mr. Dunkelmann, and although of gentle birth he took up the work of a pioneer with all the earnestness of a veteran. He broke prairie, planted and sowed the same as other settlers. Being a single man he lived in the Dunkelmann family and they became great friends. The grasshoppers destroyed his crops in 1873 and again in 1874, and then this young German, Josef von Willemoes-Suhm by name, became discouraged, sold his eighty acres, with sixty-three acres of breaking, for two hundred and fifty dollars and left the country. However, this fine prairie made such a deep impression on this young man, that after about forty years' absence, this man, who had become a traveling salesman, returned to visit his old friend Dunkelmann. When he and Dunkelmann visited Sibley last fall he was as enthusiastic as a boy over the marvelous changes. He related with much pleasure and merriment how he and Dunkelmann started out on horseback one fine May morning in 1873 to visit Sibley and could not locate it. Finally a shower came up and they were obliged to seek shelter in a big house, and lo! they discovered they were in Sibley. By the way, this man has been successful in a business way, not only having saved a competence, but being retired on a liberal pension by his firm for long and meritorious service. Don Josef considered it a huge joke on Don Henry that he, an old cavalryman in the Civil War, and a prairie rider generally, could not locate the county seat in his own county. Nathan D. Bowles was a stirring fellow, but did not remain many years. Valentine Quinnett's stay



MAP OF EAST HOLMAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

was of short duration. Hans Graves is still living on his claim, but sold and gave possession March 1, 1914. His life on the farm was a success.

Section 28. Fritz Ohm made a short stay here and moved to Monroe county in an early day. Jerry Graves still lives on his claim. He moved to Sanborn and, after trying town life one or two years, yielded to the call of the soil and returned to the farm. He thinks a man can enjoy his old age on the farm where he spent all his working days as well and much happier than in town. Cyrus J. Dewey was a transient. Frank Graves died on his claim about fifteen years ago. Frank Graves has retired and lives in Ocheyedan. Peter Graves conducts a restaurant in Ocheyedan.

Section 29. E. Bentz is a successful farmer. Mr. Bentz secured part of the town site of the new town of Melvin.

Section 30. Fritz Rhode died several years ago. August Genz is hardly remembered. Martin S. Stanford and Sylvester Larabee were not stayers. W. A. Waldo, who entered a claim on this section, remained here several years and then sold out. He conducted a livery stable for a time in Sioux City, but eventually landed in California where he was living at last report. He was a well educated gentleman and taught school several terms while here to bridge over the hard times.

Section 31. A. Saeinga came here with the proceeds of the sale of a forty-acre farm in Illinois, settled on section 31 and now has four hundred and eighty acres in this township, as well as property in Melvin. O. M. DeFries has made a comfortable competence here and now lives in Melvin.

Section 33. John Isly has made enough to retire and now lives in Hartley.

Section 34. Henry Schmoll is an intelligent and industrious farmer who is one of the county supervisors. He was supervisor during the time the new court house was under construction and has proved he is a painstaking and efficient officer.

EAST HOLMAN TOWNSHIP.

Section 1. Among those who came after the grasshopper period we find M. A. Cook on section 1. Mr. Cook came from the south and lives here because he cannot stand the southern climate. He has a novel house, built of concrete in bungalow style, and the most novel feature of it is the fact he did the work with his own hands. He is now erecting a concrete barn. He was one of the first in the county to have a silo.

Section 2. Thomas Pell was a Methodist minister of considerable talent,

short on education and expression, but long on ideas. He was a good man, big, angular and strong. He preached some for the Methodists in Ocheyedan in the early day and later for the Congregationalists in Sibley. While he preached in Sibley, he resided there also. His features were rugged and expressive, but somewhat irregular. His mouth twisted to one side and gave him the appearance of whispering something to the right ear which he did not want his left ear to overhear. He died many years ago dearly beloved and highly respected. Ed. E. Tipple was also a claimant on this section. After proving up, Mr. Tipple moved to Sibley, where he now resides. His wife died a few years ago. Here also was John Cashen, a typical Irishman. He later moved to Sibley, and for many years was an all round man for Dr. Neill and at the same time acted as city marshal. He was proud of his position and maintained the dignity of his office in martial style. He died many years ago. After his funeral some one handed W. J. Miller fifty cents saying it was from John Cashen. Miller was not aware that Cashen owed him anything. When on his death bed he directed payment of a few debts that were forgotten by the other parties. C. F. Kreuger was a thrifty German on this section, who later moved to southern California. His son, Fred, now lives on the old place. O. J. Hungerford was a single man and died about 1887 in the Osceola House in Sibley.

Section 4. E. A. White was well known in and about Sibley but left the county in an early day. S. A. Wright later moved into Sibley as county treasurer. For some years he was bookkeeper in the First National Bank. He was quite a capable man. Later he moved south. John F. Glover was the second clerk of courts. He served one term as representative and has lived in Sibley ever since. He was at one time editor of the *Sibley Gazette*. He is a lawyer, pension agent and Congregational minister. At present he has no church, but acts as a supply minister quite often.

Section 5. A. Chadwick is a model farmer and a thorough dairyman. F. F. White, a brother of E. A. White, also left early.

Section 6. Nathan H. Reynolds was the father of J. S. Reynolds, who was county auditor seventeen years; father of C. P. Reynolds, the owner of a fine eighty-acre farm bordering on Sibley; also father of Edward Reynolds, of Sibley. Sarah R. Rosenberger was also on section 6, but little is remembered of her. Joseph Buchanan left the county soon after securing title. John Webb, the first Methodist preacher in Sibley and one of the first to conduct religious services in the eastern part of the county, had a claim on this section. The other minister in the eastern part of the county was Elder Dean, who was the first Congregational preacher in Sibley. More about both

of these good men will be found in the chapter on churches. Rev. Webb died in southern California and Elder Dean is still preaching.

Section 7. M. P. Feldcamp and N. P. Feldcamp are prosperous farmers and both have fine improvements.

Section 8. Here was M. J. Campbell, for many years county surveyor. A few years ago he moved to the state of Washington where he soon died. Here also was Samuel Herbert, who moved to southwestern Missouri where he died. W. W. Webb, son of John Webb, had a claim here. He soon moved to Sibley where he lived many years. Later his mind became affected and he was taken to the asylum for the insane where he committed suicide. Cyrus M. Brooks, son-in-law of John Webb, was here. He was the first clerk of courts of Osceola. He died in middle age. D. L. McCausland was county recorder several terms and lived many years in Sibley. He finally moved to Rock Rapids where he lived a short time and then moved to southern California, where he now resides. He came here a confirmed consumptive and nearly helpless. He regained his health here and now weighs over two hundred pounds. J. R. Wolff has a model farm on this section and has recently completed one of the finest residences in the county. His farm is the old claim of Samuel Herbert. E. Ebert is an intelligent farmer and one of the leaders in this township. He also has a beautiful farm home and good farm. C. D. Garberson, on section 4 and 8, has recently moved to Sibley and is at present one of Sibley's stock buyers.

Section 10. Harvey Walters lived many years in Sibley where he died. Enoch Jenkins left early. He will be remembered as "Post Hole" Jenkins. James Bowles did not remain long. Edward Laherty was section boss on the railroad and was accidentally killed.

Section 12. E. S. Fairbrother did not remain long. C. H. Bull later bought more land and became a prominent dairyman. He came from a dairy country in the state of New York, and put in practice here with marked success what he learned as a boy in New York. He gained a competency and moved into Sibley as a retired farmer. Later he sold his interests here and moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, to be near his daughter and only child. He is still living and enjoying life. John Sclecht was here but a short time and little is known of him. John E. Johnson, a Norwegian, was quite prosperous and died some years ago, leaving quite a valuable estate. His original homestead is still in the family. C. J. Moar yet resides in the county in Ochevedan township.

Section 14. Fred Kreuger still lives in the county on his father's old homestead. J. H. Kilpatrick was a transient. O. C. Staplin sold his farm

twelve or fifteen years ago and bought in Dickinson county. He is now retired and resides in Spirit Lake. Little was known of John Sovey. Wallace Rea sold before land values advanced very much, and being a veteran of the Civil War, arranged to live in the Old Soldiers' Home, where he died some years ago.

Adam Huls came about twenty years ago with only a few hundred dollars and bought two hundred and forty acres on section 16, in Viola township, under contract. He worked hard and saved, until he had his farm nearly paid for and then traded it for a two-hundred-acre farm on section 14, in East Holman. Losing his son, on whom he relied for help, he sold about two years ago for one hundred dollars an acre and retired to Allendorf where he purchased a commodious home and is now living at his ease and enjoying life.

Section 17. W. E. Dawson has a farm on section 17.

Section 18. H. K. Rodgers, the first merchant of Sibley, filed on this section and made it his home, walking back and forth from the store every day. He actually lived on his claim the required time. He still owns the land but lives in California. J. B. Miller was a transient. John W. Jenkins entered the northwest quarter, now occupied by Sibley, the gravel pit and Sibley Cement Works. C. W. Jenkins for some time conducted a grocery and restaurant business in Sibley. He finally sold and moved to Kansas City, where he is now engaged in the musical instrument business. J. M. Jenkins was Sibley's first doctor and served one term as county superintendent of schools. He eventually sold out here and died in the western part of Plymouth county where he owned a large stock farm. F. E. Kenedy, now living on section 18, originally lived in Viola township, but later bought his present farm from P. A. Cajacob, his father-in-law. He has made quite a fortune and now lives in Sibley, engaged in the stock buying business. His home farm was the homestead of Dr. Jenkins.

George and Frank Mackinson came quite late and bought the J. R. Morris farm in section 19. They are prosperous farmers and take a great interest in stock, especially good horses. Frank recently moved to Sibley on account of his wife's poor health. She died in October, 1913. George also lost his wife some years ago and is now living on the farm with his second wife.

Section 20. J. Q. Miller's pre-emption was on this section. His homestead was on section 28. He still lives in the township on section 23, where he owns and conducts a successful dairy business. L. F. Diefendorf was a prominent man in the county for a few years, but sold and left at an early

date. Michael Dailey sold as soon as he could get his title to Dr. Jenkins. His home was in LeMars. Harris Durkee was not an actual settler.

Section 21. S. M. Cronin bought all of section 21 from the Iowa Land Company. He came from LeMars. As a home place he bought a fractional forty on section 18, near Sibley, and built a fine house for a home. He died last year.

Section 22. J. S. Reynolds was county auditor for seventeen years. He died some years ago. G. E. Pensyl, formerly of DeKalb county, Illinois, now owns the Reynolds quarter. He is a successful farmer. F. R. Coe located on this section but could not stand the grasshoppers, so sold and left early. Henry Klimppin only remained long enough to prove up, sell and get away. S. H. Westcott was well known in the county until the time of his death in Sibley.

Section 24. John McDonald, of Sioux City, was a transient here. Hiram Austin early moved to Missouri, where he died. H. G. Doolittle was a prominent figure. He was a member and foreman of the first grand jury that indicted the grafters. He served as county surveyor several terms, postmaster in Sibley eight years, rural mail carrier several years and is now living a retired life in Sibley. Robert Magee and William D. Lamb were both transients.

Section 26. C. R. Mandeville sold his land early and moved into Sibley and followed the carpenter business. He is one of three living members of that famous first grand jury and now resides in Holton, Kansas. C. B. Hobart, a fine fellow, was a transient here. W. H. Mandeville held his land quite a while, but eventually moved to Sibley and later to the state of Washington, where he now lives. P. L. Thompson lived on his land a short time. Timothy Green was also an early settler on this section.

Section 28. William R. Wells, a Vermonter, pre-empted the north-east quarter of this section and hung on all through the grasshopper times and some years later. He was a single man and not well adapted to the cold winters here. He finally moved to southern California, where he died. W. J. Miller moved to Sibley during grasshopper times, was principal of the Sibley schools four years, held various offices, engaged in the lumber business and is now conducting a broker business. He has been justice of the peace for eighteen years. He is now writing this history. He knew them all. J. Q. Miller is still living and farming in the county. Mahlon Harvey bought the southeast quarter and later the southwest quarter and stuck to the land. He served three terms as representative. His land made him well off. He died recently. G. H. Perry homesteaded here, but sold early

to W. J. Miller. Mr. Perry now lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and he made a fortune in land and Sioux Falls property. C. W. Sollett came from Chicago and located on the old Wells' claim. He and his son are farming and raising thoroughbred Hereford cattle.

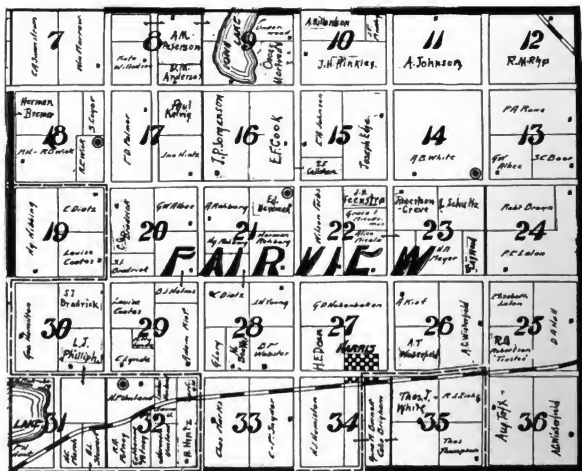
Section 30. Here were Joseph Chambers, Simeon Turnbull and Gared Post, who did not live on the land much and sold early. Hiram Burt made his home on his claim until he sold and moved to Sibley. Later he moved to Clear Lake where he died. John Kahill was a transient.

Section 32. H. W. Phillips was a prominent citizen here while he remained. He was quite a sheep raiser. In about 1892 he sold to S. J. Campbell and moved to New Mexico and engaged in ranching. He died many years ago. H. L. Clappsaddle was a bona fide settler through all the hard times, but finally sold out and moved to Mountain Grove, Missouri, on the Ozark range, where he now lives a happy and easy life. William Horton and John N. Kettle became discouraged with grasshopper times and sold, returning to Illinois at an early day. Neither improved his condition. C. S. Janes came quite late, but has prospered on section 32. He has recently bought a home in Sibley and retired from farming, leaving the farm, in charge of his son.

Section 34. Orin Levissee was the neighborhood blacksmith but sold early and now lives in northern Wisconsin. James T. Greenfield held to his homestead and bought more land from time to time until now he has seven hundred and twenty acres, one of the best improved farms in the county. He has rented his farm and lives in Sibley at his ease. George W. Greenfield and L. D. Barnes sold their claims to James T. Greenfield and both died many years ago. Peter Phillen was a prosperous sheep raiser and farmer, but became dissatisfied and sold out, moving to the state of Washington, where he died many years ago.

Section 36—George Schroder clung to his land and prospered. He now rents his farm and lives in Sibley enjoying a retired life. Henry Schroder held his land until the time of his death a few years ago. Of late years he rented his farm and made his home in Sibley. Robert Smith still holds his claim on this section but is living quietly in Sibley. He was a soldier in the Civil War. E. H. Benson sold and left early. William Gee died many years ago.

The Jenkins, Mandevilles, Millers, Greenfields, Clappsaddles, Hortons, Kittles and Perrys were from northern Illinois and made quite an Illinois colony.



MAP OF FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP.

This township was set off from Horton township in 1874. It was so named on account of the fair and beautiful view it presented before the white man defaced the unbroken beauty of its gently undulating surface with plow and trail and homesteaders' shack. In 1870 it was a rich pastoral scene of unblemished beauty, covered with sweet prairie grass, thickly bedecked with the wild rose, prairie pink, gorgeous wild lilies and yellow golden rod. It appeared as if nature did its utmost to create a magnificent flower garden. Even the common resin weed that bordered each slough or run, made as fine a display as the most carefully cultivated bed of golden glow. This section of the country was so attractive in appearance that a few sections were gobbled up by speculators before the homesteaders arrived.

The names of the actual early settlers as nearly as can now be remembered or ascertained are as follows: On section 8 were Charles A. Foot, Alonzo Smith and S. A. Dove. Mr. Dove was later on the board of county supervisors for several terms and made a good officer. He now lives in Los Angeles, California. On section 10 were John Stewart, Egbert F. Wheeler and J. S. Davison. Mr. Davison later was elected to the office of clerk of courts, in which capacity he served several terms with credit. He is now practising law in Long Pine, Nebraska. On section 20 located H. D. Persons and J. W. Flint, the latter soon moving to Sibley where he worked at the mason's trade and died in an early day. J. L. Flint and Scott Case were transients in this section. On section 22 were two prominent men. Thomas Jackson later sold his farm and moved to southwestern Missouri where he prospered and died a few years ago. Charles Ambright soon moved to Sibley and was leader of the first Sibley band. He is now living at Columbus Junction and is reported by his son-in-law, J. Fred Mattert, as well and happy. Section 28 was settled by J. L. Pfaff, who is now living in Nebraska. He visited in Sibley last year and seemed hale and hearty. N. R. Cloud, another early settler of section 28, married Clara Wylls, of Wilson township, and twenty-two years ago sold and moved to the state of Washington where he now lives. He and his wife visited in and about Sibley in 1913. Benjamin F. Webster, a veteran of the Civil War, was also a settler on section 28 and is still living on his original claim. He is the only homesteader in this township who bears this distinction. Although seventy-six years of age, he is hale and hearty and enjoying life. He is loved and respected by his neighbors and by all who know him. Sec-

tion 30 was taken by Thomas Lightfoot, who proved to be a transient. George Hamilton also located on this section and became one of the foremost and best known farmers in the county. He was not only a good farmer but a noted stock raiser. He built up the most extensive herds of Polled Angus cattle in northwestern Iowa. He died in 1911. Another of our prominent citizens, William Mowthorp, settled, lived long and died on section 30. He was many years on the board of supervisors and was always alert for the best interest of the county. He was frequently mentioned as a candidate for state representative. On section 32 was Henry Claflin, who only remained about long enough to prove up and sell out. Q. E. Cleveland remained through all the hard times and some time after, but finally sold out and returned to Pennsylvania. His oldest son still lives in the county and resides in Ocheyedan where he has been serving as justice of the peace for many years.

Very few of these old settlers are now alive. They were a fine lot of people with not one black sheep in the lot. They and those that followed them have changed Fairview township from a fair open prairie to a well-cultivated tract with good graded roads and substantial improvements.

Among the farmers who came later are Wilson Forbes and Frank Palmer. They came here poor, worked for others and later worked land on shares. Each now has a well-improved farm of three hundred and twenty acres. Cattle and hogs are their specialty. In very recent years L. J. Phillips came to this township and bought the farm of three hundred and twenty acres left by William Mowthorp when he died. Mr. Philips is a man of affairs and is so well thought of that he was elected recently to represent his part of the county on the board of supervisors. C. and F. Snyder are thrifty men who own a fine farm on section 33.

The northeastern portion of this township was unsettled for a number of years. It was held by speculators and the railroad company, which, while the school section, number 16, made a vast meadow on which large quantities of hay were cut annually, and shipped to the big markets. All that part of the township was known then as the hay ranch. A little later it was used as a herding ground on which large herds of cattle were pastured each summer. It is now, however, all cut up into well-cultivated farms.

The first officers, as near as can be learned, were as follows: Trustees—Thomas Lightfoot, J. W. Flint and J. F. Pfaff; clerk—W. S. Blake; justice of the peace—George Hamilton and J. S. Davison; constable—F. M. Cleveland; assessor—C. A. Foot. The present township officers are as follows: A. T. Winterfield, R. M. Riggs and Herman Unland, trustees; G. G. Brod-



MAP OF GILMAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

rick, clerk; A. W. Burley, constable; R. J. Robertson, justice of the peace; William Dietz, assessor. The township has five public schools. The present board of school directors are L. J. Hagerty, Charles Gibson, Ed Fuller, G. G. Brodrick and L. J. Philips, with R. J. Robertson as clerk of the board.

GILMAN TOWNSHIP.

Section 2. Here was David L. Kerr, who sold out soon after proving up. Charles Wilson was an old man and not very strong but held on as long as he was able to work and had to sell because he was not able to conduct a farm. Thomas Thompson remained twelve or fifteen years, but finally became discontented and sold, moving farther west. Samuel Haney was a Seventh-Day Adventist preacher and as honest a man as could be found. He was a big, strong, hard working man with quite a family to support, and during the hard times he had to borrow a little money at usurious rates of interest. His experience was the same as hundreds of others at that time. He had to have a little money or himself, wife and little ones would starve. He was too honest to steal. Moreover, there was no one to steal from. He could not rob, as all were in the same boat. So he went to the only door open to him and others, the usurer's office. In a few years the little that he borrowed was compounded so often and at such a high rate of interest that he owed eight or ten hundred dollars. Perhaps the usurer did not charge too much for the chances he took. Loaning money to homesteaders at that time was a risky gamble. Haney finally reached another door with hundreds of others, where the only escape was to plead usury. All the creditors had to do was to prove usury to get relief. Mr. Haney did not go to the limit, but went far enough to force a reasonable settlement. He sold out here and after a forced compromise went to Minnesota and bought cheaper land. The turn to better times came and he got along very well until the time of his death which occurred many years ago. Rev. Haney's experience is told as illustrative of the way many others had to do to get along during those trying times.

Section 4. Edward Everett lived on one of the main roads on the bank of Otter creek about half way between Sibley and Ashton. He had the misfortune to get his foot cut in a mower and his son, then a little lad, had his foot cut in much the same way, so both of them are going through the world with crippled feet. Mr. Everett sold his homestead early and bought cheaper land over near the Ocheyedan mound. When land advanced a little over there he sold again and, moving to Nebraska, located near Lin-

coln, where he now resides. John Striet still owns his claim and other land, but has rented and resides in Ashton. Streit held his land until it became of some value, then sold and moved to Ashton where he died about twenty-five years ago. F. H. Townsend lived on his claim several years and then moved to Sibley and engaged in the agricultural implement business for a few years. Finally he sold out and moved west. Joseph F. Fairfax was a transient and sold as soon as he secured title. Jacob Johannes still owns his claim, but bought and lives on the Abraham Miller eighty adjoining Ashton. Nicholas Boor was a leader among the Germans. He moved to Ashton at an early date and engaged in the lumber, coal and grain business and did much to build up the Ashton market. He died quite wealthy about twenty years ago.

Section 6. Mathew Spartz, who was one of the settlers on this section, is now a retired farmer and lives in Ashton. Frank Poschack sold after land became valuable and moved to southern Minnesota. Charles Haggerty sold and left in an early day. Michael Langan and Thomas Haggerty sold and left in the early seventies. Byron F. Petingale is still on his original claim. It is doubtful if there was ever a Republican county convention in Osceola county that Petingale did not attend as a delegate, but he never asked for an office for himself.

Section 8. James E. Townsend was always one of our most successful farmers. He served as county treasurer three terms and was an able and painstaking officer. After his third term of service as treasurer he returned to his farm and about three years ago retired to Ashton, where he now resides and is mayor of that thriving little city. One of his sons remains on the farm. Mr. Townsend has one of the best orchards in the county. Francis E. Cook sold early and moved to Bunt, South Dakota, and engaged in the sheep business. He died there several years ago. James W. Carson was a public spirited citizen and was well liked by his neighbors. He died on his claim some thirty years ago. William P. Smith sold in a few years and moved west and is now living in Oregon. He was one of the Quaker settlers.

Section 10. The Des Moines River Valley Railroad Company secured one-half of this section as indemnity land and the other half was entered by Alvin H. Brown and William A. Canfield, both of whom sold and left in 1873.

Section 12. John Neff was quite a prominent man and successful farmer and died on his claim. His widow lives in Ashton. William J. Reeves filed on and entered eighty acres on this section, but later bought

more land across the road in Goewey township and there built his permanent residence. He was a successful farmer and bought other land until he had a fine improved farm of one-half section. As his boys became men and left home, and as land became valuable, he sold and bought eighty acres joining the corporate limits of Sibley and one hundred and sixty acres one mile south of Sibley. He built a fine home in Sibley joining the eighty and last year sold this home and the eighty for sixteen thousand dollars. He and his wife spent last winter in California, but returned in the spring and are now about completing a new home in Sibley. They say California is fine but Iowa still looks good to them. By industry and thrift they have acquired a competence. They gave their children all the education they would take along lines of their own choosing. Mr. Reeves taught school many terms and held the office of county superintendent of schools several terms. Since moving to Sibley he has served with credit on the board of supervisors several years. Other names appearing on this section are Henry Freeman, Thomas J. Cox, Edward Cole and Frederick M. Croft, none of whom remained very long, although all were well known at the time. Cox is reported as dead.

Section 14. Henry Newick was an expert accountant and was township clerk of Gilman many years. He died on his claim about twenty years ago. Thomas Shaw was the first merchant to do business in Osceola county. Before the railroad was built his store stood on the bank of Otter creek, near the southwest corner of the county. Upon the completion of the railroad, he moved his store to Ashton. He was the first merchant of that town, where he remained several years before he sold out and moved away. Other settlers on this section, Andrew Mathews and Albert Rounswell, were well-known transients. William Foster was a prominent man in public affairs, being county supervisor several terms and nearly always holding some township office. He died on his claim when only a little past middle age. Peter Seivert was an industrious German and a permanent citizen.

Section 18. On this section was Martin Rosenburgh, who died in Ashton many years ago. William Schultz now lives in Sheldon, Iowa. Dr. Gurney located on this section, but having been a soldier in the Civil War, he had to live on his claim but a short time until he could prove up. He then moved to Sibley and practiced his profession. He was elected to the office of county superintendent of schools for one term. Later he moved to Sheldon and continued the practice of medicine several years. Later still he moved to Doon, Iowa, and went into the drug business. He died in Doon ten or twelve years ago of apoplexy. John D. Billings and Seth

Wilson were also on section 18, but did not stay long. Eugene B. Hyde operated with Captain Huff in locating settlers. After the government land was all taken he sold out and moved to the far west, where he died.

Section 20. On this section was William Dutton, an Englishman and wonderfully enthusiastic about this country, but when the grasshoppers came he soon lost heart and moved to the coast, where he died. He could not stand real hardships. Joseph W. Reagan sold his land too soon to realize much for it and moved to Ashton, where he served as justice of the peace many years. He was a pensioner of the Civil War. Later he moved to Sibley and at a Republican convention held at Ocheyedan he was nominated for the office of county recorder and later elected and held the office three terms. He still lives in Sibley, but is unable to work. Edward Dutton was a brother of William Dutton and had about the same experience. Gunder Everson moved to Clark county, South Dakota. Eugene F. Cox was a transient. Daniel M. Baker sold about 1880, bought near LeMars, later sold again and located on Perry creek about twelve miles northeast of Sioux City, where he still resides.

Section 22 was secured by the Des Moines Valley Railroad Company as indemnity land.

Section 24. Here was Steven B. Brackett, who was not a stayer. Mathew Westcott went off railroading and his whereabouts are unknown. Alonzo L. Stickney was a transient. Lyman H. Hills was a carpenter, and not succeeding as a farmer, he sold his claim, moved to Sheldon and later to Sioux City, where he now resides. Sylvester Close did not become a permanent settler. Frank E. Farnsworth sold early and moved to Oregon, where he died.

Section 26. James A. W. Gibson sold about twenty years ago and now lives with his daughter west of Little Rock, in Lyon county, Iowa. William Jepson committed suicide by cutting his throat while on his claim. Ephriam Miller was a prosperous and successful farmer, but became discontented and sold about twenty years ago and moved to Kansas. While farming in this county he planted a few acres of alfalfa on the Otter bottom which grew and afforded three crops yearly for several years. Finally there was an unusually wet year, when it died. The supposition was that it would not stand excessive moisture. William H. Gibson sold and left early. Aschel Monk sold and moved to Sheldon, where he died.

Section 28 was secured by the Des Moines Valley Railroad Company.

Section 30. Here was Philander Gillett, who sold and left the country soon after proving up. Ashael Gardner was another of the Quaker settle-

6 Wm. Dorel Joh. Engel	5 Johanna Groves Geo. Belmer Leo Truesdale	4 Soren Amundson B.K. Kierman H. Truesdale	3 E.H. Amundson Joh. Stevens Wm. H. Hickey J.P. Jones	2 Joh. Stevens Wm. H. Hickey J.P. Jones	1 Joh. Stevens Wm. H. Hickey J.P. Jones
7 A. Hestrich Joh. Engel	8 A. Hestrich Joh. Engel	9 A. Hestrich Joh. Engel	10 L.G. Hestrich Dor. Clayton Henry Strang E. Schlicht	11 L.G. Hestrich Dor. Clayton Henry Strang E. Schlicht	12 L.G. Hestrich Dor. Clayton Henry Strang E. Schlicht
18 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	17 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	16 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	15 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	14 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	13 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey
19 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	20 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	21 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	22 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	23 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	24 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey
30 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	29 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	28 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	27 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	26 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	25 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey
31 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	32 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	33 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	34 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	35 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey	36 Joh. Engel Wm. H. Hickey

MAP OF GOEWY TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

ment who left early and died in Oregon. William Barnett was one of the principal men in the Quaker settlement and died of cancer many years ago. Clement C. Osgood was a successful cattle raiser and had a fine chance in the open country along the Otter creek and was prospering when death claimed him. His son, Wilber Osgood, still resides on the old claim and now has a well-improved farm. David Merrill was not a real settler, but his claim was secured for him. James M. Merrill died in Sheldon. He was manager and later owner of a big farm on which the Sheldon fair grounds are situated.

Section 32. The Des Moines Valley Railroad Company secured the north half of this section. The south half was taken by Eldred Huff, who was a captain in the Union Army during the Civil War. He is generally credited with being the first settler of this county. He always took great interest in public affairs. He served several terms as county recorder and died recently in the far west. Uriah Cook sold early and now lives in the state of Washington. He was another of the Quakers.

Section 34. On this section were Steven Williams, Henry W. Reeves, Henry G. Moore, Charles G. Reeves and Joseph Bunce, none of whom remained in the country very long. Abe Miller was a sterling fellow, but a threshing machine looked better to him than a farm. He went over the same road that nearly all the threshing machine men went during those early, precarious days.

GOEWY TOWNSHIP.

Section 1. Nels Madison is an enterprising and thrifty farmer.

Section 2. On this section settled J. F. Jones, or "Fundy" Jones, as he was commonly called. He proved to be a steady and thrifty citizen, who made money slowly but surely. Some years ago he moved to a small town near Spokane, Washington, and a few years since sold his farm for a good price. He died in April, 1914. Here also was Joshua Stevens. He died many years ago, but his widow, who remarried, still lives on and owns the land. Here O. B. Harding drove a stake and remained many years as one of Goewy's foremost farmers. He always handled stock, and with the exception of a grasshopper years, made money and bought more land. Thus he waxed rich. Finally he retired to Morningside, Iowa, to give his children the advantages of a college education. Lieutenant-Governor Harding, who was born in this county, is one of his children. A few years ago he

returned to Sibley, enjoying the fruits of his early industry and enterprise, and is now one of Sibley's most public spirited and enterprising citizens. Thomas L. Jennings settled on this section, but left early. Eldridge E. Morrison entered eighty acres on this section and later moved to Sibley, where he died a few years ago.

Section 4. Henry A. Francisco, who was one of the settlers on section 4, was a well-known character. He made a living for himself and family through the trying years following the first settlement of the county by breaking prairie for his neighbors, who were able to pay for it, and by swapping horses as a side issue. He was known as the most successful horse trader in the county. Albert Roney gained a livelihood by untiring industry and economy. He was always one of the influential citizens of his township and, until he moved to Sibley, was continuously holding some township office. He still lives in Sibley, conducting a successful grocery business. He is now city assessor. He served several years as postmaster of Sibley. He is a veteran of the Civil War and is still lively and industrious. Andrew Meeser and Samuel Hixon were not well known beyond their own neighborhood and left early.

Section 6. On this section settled John H. and William Dagle, whose special crops have been grain and stock, in the production of which the Dagle brothers have been eminently successful. They came with the first and have demonstrated in a marked degree how men can become wealthy in this county by clinging to the land and farming exclusively. They held no office, received no aid, did not speculate, but devoted their entire time to farming and stock raising. Each raised large families of industrious children and were as hard pressed as their neighbors the first few years. When times improved they began to buy more land, to feed more stock, to buy more land, and now their combined wealth is estimated at near the half million dollar mark and still increasing. They are among the few in this county who still reside on their original claims. They are veterans of the Civil War and enjoying reasonably good health. Herman C. Lyman settled on this section, but not having been in the army, could enter only eighty acres. When the hard times passed he found himself with an increasing family and not enough land, so he sold and bought in Baker township, on the Little Ocheyedun, where land, on account of its long distance from market and some hills on part of it, was very cheap. There he exercised his energies in raising stock very successfully. He has been one of Osceola's most extensive stock raisers and feeders. He usually ships his own stock. A well-improved section farm and a long list of personal property now ap-

pears as a result of his tireless industry. Last year, wishing to withdraw from active hard work, he erected a comfortable home on a part of his land and has retired on his own farm instead of moving to town, as is the custom. George A. Graves came and went with many of his class without impression. Peter Sherbondy was always a steady, thrifty fellow, who did not try to make much show, but kept steady at it all the time, always making a little money, and is now well fixed. He still owns his farm but is now, and has been for several years, the merchant at Cloverdale and doing a good safe business.

Section 8. This was the home of Henry C. Allen, who was always active in township and county affairs and held several township offices. He was county supervisor many years. He was a veteran of the Civil War and a prominent Grand Army man. He sold his land and moved to western Nebraska, where his wife died some years ago. Being left alone and having some property near Hot Springs, he arranged with the institution of the Soldiers' Home of that place for a home. He likes the climate, surroundings and water of that place, and is enjoying his declining years in comfort and contentment. While here he was a good neighbor, an honest and painstaking official and public spirited citizen. He visited Sibley and his old friends last summer. Anna Hanslip and James Hanslip located land here merely for what they could get out of it and were never active in affairs in any way. Christian Thompson and Knute Thompson entered land on this section, made some improvements, planted groves and sold while land was very cheap. John Gray was an old soldier, entered a quarter section here and lived on it many years. As the infirmities of old age came creeping on him, he sold his land and moved to Ashton, where he died a few years ago.

Section 10. William Mitchell settled on this section and was as full of pluck as a nut is full of meat. He was poor, but hardy as a knot and blessed with a large family. His only team was a yoke of oxen. The oxen and an old wagon were about his only asset as far as property was concerned; he and his ox-team worked an overland freight route between Cherokee and Roger's store in Sibley. Through fair weather and foul, he went over the road, walking beside his team. He and his oxen might easily have perished had they been caught out in a bad blizzard. Like a fatalist, he kept plodding along and proved that it was not ordained that he should die that way. However, he sold and left the county before land was worth much and thus lost the reward that was in store for him. The last heard from him he was a stone mason in Mankato, Minnesota, and had acquired a comfortable home.

He deserves all the good luck that is likely to come his way. G. L. VanEaton came from southwestern Wisconsin and was a hustling and enterprising citizen from the start. When the Chicago, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad came through the county he moved to Little Rock, in Lyon county, and engaged in the lumber and grain business. He bought more land near that place and, although still living in Little Rock, has retired from business. He recently celebrated his seventieth birthday with a banquet. He is an old soldier and is enjoying good health. George E. Perry and Clark A. Perry filed on this section and lived on it many years. They sold and moved to Sibley when land was worth about one-half its present price. However, they bought more land and received the benefit of the advance. They were both in the Civil War. George E. Perry later moved to Sioux Falls, where he died recently. Clark is still living in Sibley and is quite deaf. They were quite active while they lived in Goewey.

Section 12. Here was A. Waldo, Oscar Barnett, Andrew Meisser and Isaac N. Porter. A. Waldo had a son, Byron Waldo, who attracted some attention. He was a good neighbor and fine fellow. However, he tired of farming early and went to railroading and eventually died of consumption while yet a young man.

Section 13. Jake Brandt, on section 13, has made a successful farmer.

Section 14. Leonard Meisser was one of the claimants on this section. John I. Perry was a brother of George E. and Clark A. of section 10. He remained on his claim until the county was pretty well developed and then sold and moved to Sanborn, where he died many years ago. His widow is still living and makes her home with Mrs. Alva Harding, a married daughter, in Clark county, South Dakota. Elias Johnson and George R. Garwin left early. Titus E. Perry was the father of the other Perrys mentioned, and being an old man, remained quietly at home and made a good farm of his claim. He died on his claim many years ago. His widow survived him several years.

Section 16. This school section was sold to J. T. Barclay in the early days and he sold it to actual settlers.

Section 18. Andrew Christionson, Frances Allen, August Thompson, John Henderson, Chris Anderson and Samuel Y. Denton were all well known at the time they were here, but none of them took any active part in affairs, and all sold out early and left without making much impression.

Section 19. Charles Bangert bought the east half of section 19 in the year 1885, paying therefor the sum of three thousand eight hundred and forty dollars. He put on a fine set of improvements and could sell now for

more thousands than he paid hundreds, and his land is still advancing in price. After serving on the board of supervisors several terms, he declined to be a candidate again. While on the board he was one of its most useful members. He recently retired and moved to Ashton.

Section 20. Here settled William R. Foster. He came from Canada and was a man of sterling qualities, a hard working, industrious fellow and good neighbor. The afternoon of January 12, 1888, was fair and warm. The teacher, a Miss Reeves, taught the school in that district and boarded at Foster's. In the afternoon Mr. Foster drove over to the school house after the teacher and his children and then thought of an errand to attend to at Charley Hoffman's house, a distance of perhaps eighty rods. So he walked over there without an overcoat. While stopping there to visit a few minutes, they heard the wind, and looking out, discovered a full fledged blizzard raging. Hoffman insisted on his taking an old overcoat to throw over his head to protect his face and neck from the driving snow. Foster took the coat reluctantly, saying he could go that short distance regardless of the storm. He started out bravely, and although there was a row of trees and a plain track, so bewildering, stifling and benumbing is the influence of a blizzard, that although he afterwards remembered seeing his own trees and hearing his own dog bark, he passed his house and became completely confused and lost, all within a few rods of his home. In his wanderings he ran or stumbled against a hay stack and had just enough life and strength left to dig a hole in the leeward side of the stack. He burrowed in as far as he could and remained there in a benumbed condition all night. Foster was a strong man, and by the exercise of his will to the limit, he was able to crawl out in the morning and resume wanderings more dead than alive. He finally ran up against the house of Alexander Gilkerson, on section 28, about two miles from his own home, where he received care and attention. As a result of this blizzard he lost all the fingers on both hands. Notwithstanding this handicap, he continued on the farm, and years later he told the writer that he got along better and made money faster after the loss of his fingers than he did before, assigning as a reason that not being able to work in the field, he had plenty of time to look after all the little things about the place. He died some years ago on the old homestead, and his wife and daughter still live there. Edward Keenan, James Keathman and George Lees also entered claims on this section, but were not stayers. Mathew Attall was also here and stayed longer and was better known.

Section 22. Willard Perry was not strong physically and consequently was not able to make much impression. Deloss M. Quiggle located on this

section, and left early. Bennett Heathman, Steven Higgins and Deloss Cramer sold and left before reaping much benefit.

Section 23. C. M. McDougall, on section 23, is one of Osceola county's most thrifty farmers.

Section 24. David J. Spencer sold early and the last known of him he was janitor of a building in Sioux City. Lymon Garman did not remain long. Wallace A. Spencer remained several years on his claim before he sold and moved to Sibley. Later he moved to Sioux City, where he died a few years ago. His widow, who was a Perry, still lives in Sioux City. Jacob B. Lent was sheriff several terms and county treasurer three terms. He saved a little from his salary as county officer and bought a farm in Roberts county, South Dakota, where he now resides, and is prosperous. James Ford married a daughter of H. C. Allen. He owns and lives on his homestead. By thrift and economy he has won a competence. Lewis Folsom located here and was on the main trail between Cherokee and Sibley. Although he had only a small house and stable, he and his good wife never turned away those who traveled between those places and found it necessary to stop midway, over night, or for a meal. Mrs. Folsom suffered all the inconveniences and privations of those times, yet her kindly and helpful hospitality will always be remembered by those who traveled that trail during that period.

Section 26. Here was found Albert H. Lyman, who was a well-known character in his way. He was such a big talker that he was nicknamed "Windy Jake." He was an enthusiastic defender of the homesteaders in their rights. If any one attempted to contest a homesteader's claim, he had "Windy Jake" to consider, and it would be a pretty brave man that he could not bluff off. He died on his claim many years ago. Adam Batie was a successful cattle man. Benjamin F. Mundorf and William C. Bell did not remain long after proving up.

Section 28. On this section was Alexander Gilkerson, who was a model farmer, a public spirited citizen and splendid neighbor. He stayed on his claim until recent years when, being afflicted with a distressing cancer, he moved to Sibley and died in great distress. His wife moved to Melvin. Here was also Henry Hoffman, a well-known character all over the county. He was a successful farmer and a good neighbor. Wherever he went he was heard from. In recent years he retired and moved to Sanborn. He died on the road, from heart failure, while hauling a load of grain from the farm. On this section were located Byron F. Hoskins, Mary E. Hansohart and Frank O. Messenger, all of whom left soon after proving up

Mr. Messenger was an unsuccessful candidate for sheriff several times, and there were those cruel enough to say that that was the main reason for his early going. The reason he gave for leaving was that the wind blew too much to suit him.

Section 30. George W. Carter, George Barker, George W. Barrager and E. D. VanHorn settled here. Barrager is the only one on this section who remained long enough to be called a permanent settler. He improved his farm and erected a good set of buildings, but finally sold and moved to Sheldon, where he died February 7, 1914. He served as county supervisor of Osceola county with credit several terms.

Section 32. Here settled James Hollman, a native of England, locating in Goewey township in 1871. Before settling in this county Mr. Holland had a varied experience in this country. About the year 1860 he walked to Pike's Peak in search of gold. He remained out there about three years, the most of the time prospecting, although he made some investments. He at one time owned eighty acres where the city of Denver now stands. Finding that all was not gold that glittered he returned to Wisconsin in time to enlist in the Twenty-second Wisconsin Regiment and served nearly to the close of the war, when he was discharged on disability arising from a wound received at the battle of Peach Tree Creek. About thirty years ago he sold his farm and bought fourteen lots in Chase addition to Sibley with a residence on two of the lots. During the remaining years of his life he spent many contented hours in his big garden. November 8, 1873, Sylvia Holland was born, said to be the first white child born in Goewey township. James Holland was married to Hulda Atall in 1863. George L. Spaulding also located on this section. He was one of the first survivors, and while he was led to believe the actions of the board were for the best interests of the county, he never received any benefit from the proceedings of those troublesome days. He was considered an honorable and useful citizen in Goewey township and was nearly continuously in some township office, either on the school board or serving as justice of the peace. He died on his claim many years ago. Sidney C. VanHorn and David F. Curtis left the county in an early day.

Section 34. Willhelm Elling died in Sibley Hospital recently. John A. Haas and William C. Coats left the county during its early history. J. C. Inman and Samuel N. Daggett died on their claims some years ago.

Section 36. Henry W. Mumford, Elisha Daggett, William Daggett, Barnard Ellis and Enoch Ellis were all good worthy citizens, but Elisha Daggett and Enoch Ellis were the only ones to remain permanently. The

others drifted away in an early day. Mr. Daggett and Mr. Ellis, who remained, died on their claims not many years ago. Some of their descendants are in the county yet. Cyrus M. Morris also settled on this section, but could not stand the pressure of the hard times and went back to the state of Maine.

HARRISON TOWNSHIP.

This is indeed a beautiful township of land, not only fair to behold but possessed of a soil of inexhaustible richness. It is drained by the Ocheyedan river and its tributaries and its gently rolling surface makes an ideal agricultural district. The railroad company secured all the odd numbered sections, as elsewhere, but owing to its great distance from any railroad the homesteaders did not find it so early, a fact which gave the speculators time to buy it all up at government prices. This township had no homesteaders and, consequently, was settled later than any other portion of the county. However, most of the settlers that came here had a little money and, coming when the grasshopper scourge was a thing of the past, made good improvements and prospered from the very start.

The Mennonites, noted principally for their peculiar religious beliefs, settled in this township in the eighties. They were an industrious, thrifty, and economical people and prospered and grew rich on the fertile soil. Among these colonists, principally from Ontario and Pennsylvania, were Jesse S. Bauman (a minister of that faith), Elias Bauman, Henry Gregory, Jacob S. Bubacher, Elias Gengerich, Davin M. Slaupper, David Weaver, Peter Lehman, Emanuel Bubacher, Sidney Gengerich, and a few others. They believe that the New Testament is the only rule of faith, that there is no original sin, that infants should not be baptized and that Christians ought not to take oaths, hold office or render military service. Menno Simons was the founder of their faith. The main interest of the sect lies not so much in dogma as in discipline. They are not allowed to marry beyond the brotherhood. They abstain from all worldly vanities and refuse all civic duties. They refuse to take an oath or use the sword. When they are used as witnesses in court instead of administering the usual oath the following formula is used with them: "You solemnly affirm that the evidence you shall give will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, under the pains and penalties of the law of perjury?" These people are distinguished for simplicity and indifference to the greater world, while at the same time, industry and concentration have made them generally well-to-do. Their religion has varied but little in the course of centuries. The



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following incident illustrates the strictness of their discipline: Jesse S. Bauman, a leader among the Harrison township Mennonites, has a very large set of farm buildings and he installed an electric plant and lighted his buildings with electricity. He also put a telephone into his house. For this he was called before the church to show cause why he should not be excommunicated. While he had a hard fight on his hands, it cannot be learned that he was turned out.

This township has no railroad, but about twenty-five years ago there was a town platted on section 8 and called Lexington and a postoffice was established by the name of May City. Rufus H. Townsend, who was the first merchant in Harris, moved his stock of goods to this new town of Lexington, or May City, as it is commonly called, and conducted a general store and acted as postmaster for twenty years. He sold out last year and moved to northern Wisconsin, having sometime before purchased a dairy farm there. Mr. Townsend and his wife were in quite poor health about the time they moved to May City, but they regained their health completely in Wisconsin. They attribute this remarkable and fortunate change to Christian Science.

Among other settlers who came to Harrison township in the eighties were Frederick Mayor, Theobald Henning, F. Henry Newkirk, John Settler, Hermon Eden, William Eden, George A. Sauer, William D. Sauer and Henry Small. Mr. Small was county supervisor several years. On section 20 are David Wilson and John Byers, both thrifty farmers. Mr. Byers had a peculiar experience with his buildings. He bought what was called the Jeffries farm, on which was a large double house and a whole village of barns. Lightning first struck and fired one of the barns and from this others caught fire. All the barns and the granary were burned, leaving only the house. About two years later a cyclone dipped down and blew away his house and barns, leaving only a corncrib standing. Mr. Byers was fortunate in having insurance and drew from the insurance companies six thousand dollars in about two years. It is needless to say Mr. Byers favors adequate insurance.

HORTON TOWNSHIP.

Horton township is much the same as the rest of the county, except that the Ocheyedan river crosses it from north to south near the west border. Along this stream there are a few low hills in places. However, the homesteaders found good selections and occupied them from 1871 to 1873, as follows:

Section 8. Lester C. Washburn, Sylas Cook, W. H. Gibbs, James Griffith and S. A. Colburn. None of these settlers remained very long on their claims. Mr. Griffin moved into Sibley and engaged in the implement business, later sold out and moved to Nebraska, where he died many years ago. S. A. Colburn moved to Sibley and got a precarious living as best he could.

Section 10. A. M. Kimball, T. D. Romans, Edward Bauerand and F. Chkonald were transients, of whom little was ever known.

Section 12. F. McConnel, P. E. Randall, Eliza Tilton, W. R. Bowling and W. H. Yates. The first three of these were transients, but Mr. Bowling remained in the county until the time of his death a few years ago. He was a good neighbor and a public spirited citizen.

Section 14. William H. Bisbee, J. McDonald, C. M. Richards and T. T. Bowling were all transients, except Mr. Richards, who moved to Sibley and established a dray line. He is now dead.

Section 18. Martin Day, Amanda M. Haslip, George Machenson and William Filke. Mrs. Haslip was the widow of a captain in the Civil War. She was the mother of Mrs. J. H. Douglass of Viola township. Later she built a home in Sibley, where the Sibley hospital now stands. She died many years ago. William Filke still lives on his claim and is rich.

Section 20. T. O. Wilbern, Daniel Stevens, H. B. Clemens, Mathias Stevens and Horace J. Dawley. Mr. Wilbern was one of the early merchants of Sibley, where he still lives a retired life looking after his property interests. He served as mayor of Sibley several terms and is now justice of the peace. H. B. Clemens lived on his claim a good many years and finally moved to Sibley and was engaged in the dairy business for several years. Later he moved to the state of Washington, where he still follows the same business.

Section 22. William J. Quinn, W. W. Herron and Joseph H. Kerns. Mr. Herron remained a few years and was a stirring citizen. The others were transients.

Section 24. Luther Phillips and James Dibbin were both transients; Samuel Collett was a well-known character; Seymore Coyer still holds his land, but is living in Ocheyedan, and is wealthy. John Robertson still holds his land, but of late years has been residing in Ocheyedan. He moved to New Mexico in 1913.

Section 26. A. C. Burnham, F. M. Barnes, W. J. Gibson and W. H. Gibson were all transients.

Section 28. Ira Stevens, J. H. Fenton, and J. S. Reynolds. Mr.

Fenton was one of the first supervisors, but did not receive any of the benefits of the early grafting. Mr. Reynolds' homestead was in East Holman, where more will be recorded concerning him.

Section 30. J. C. Willey, William Reid and Adam Kundret. These men moved away directly after proving up.

Section 32. Samuel Brown was an old soldier and lived on his claim several years after proving up and then moved to Sibley, later selling his land. His wife died a few years ago and he is now living with his son, Dr. Fred J. Brown, of Sheldon, Iowa. D. Redington and J. B. Hazlett, both transients, secured the rest of this section.

Section 34. Captain L. G. Ireland, who settled on this section, will be remembered as an enthusiastic man on the subject of tree planting. He preached that it was every man's duty to plant trees and he practiced what he preached. Not only did he plant the trees but he undertook to have in his grove every variety of tree that would grow in this vicinity. The big grove on his claim is a living monument to Ireland's enthusiasm. N. W. Emery was of a more practical mind, and while he planted a large grove, he devoted more time to general farming. Jacob Brooks planted a large grove also. Mr. Ireland died in the south, Mr. Emery died on his farm, and Mr. Brooks died in Sibley.

Section 36. A. V. Randall, who now resides in Ocheyedan, settled on this section near the west shore of Rush lake, T. S. Wallace on the north shore of the same lake, and J. H. Attall on the south shore.

Of these early settlers few remain. Many are dead and others drifted away seeking greener pastures where grasshoppers were unknown. Very few held onto their land long enough to gain by the material advance in the price of land. William Filke is the only one in this township to hang on and he still lives on his original claim. He stuck through all the hard times and raised stock and gradually bought more land until now he owns eight hundred acres of good Osceola county soil with plenty of good buildings. He is one of the wealthiest farmers in the county, a good record for a man with only one hand.

The history of this township would not be complete if the influx of immigrants from 1883 to 1885 were not mentioned. They were generally supposed to have come from Indiana. In fact, they came from a neighborhood on the border between Indiana and Illinois. Among these can be mentioned W. H. Noehren, who bought and settled on section 22 and for many years made that his home. He was for some time an efficient member of the board of supervisors. He now resides in Ocheyedan and is recorded

among the business men of that town. Fred Glade settled on section 23 and always wielded a strong influence in township affairs. He reared a large family and he and many of his children still reside in this county. Dick Wassmann bought the L. G. Ireland farm, which is one of the best and most attractive places in the county. Mr. Wassmann added to the already great variety of trees planted by Captain Ireland until it is claimed there are over one hundred varieties of forest trees in the beautiful grove that delights the eye as one drives past it. Mr. Wassmann served three terms as county treasurer and at one time wielded a powerful political influence in the east end of the county. After retiring from the treasurer's office he was connected with the bank of Ocheyedan until his death a few years ago. There is hardly space to mention at length all these strong men to whom Horton township owes much of her present prosperity. Among them is found such well known names as August Palenski, Chris Bremner, August Bremner, Charles Greip, Edward Hoffman, Conrad Hattendorf, Henry Bremner, Herman Bremner, August Claus and August Consoer. Other names appearing are Engle, Hromatka, Ling, Osterman, Piscator, Sixta, Weston, Zick and Wickland. These, with others, have changed this township from a sparsely settled, and in places poorly farmed, district to one of the garden spots of north-western Iowa.

A German church is found in Horton township on section 27 which is more fully mentioned in the chapter on churches. Horton supports six public schools. The present trustees are August Clais, Conrad Bremner and Adam Engle, with George T. Ling as clerk.

OCHEYEDAN TOWNSHIP.

Ocheyedan river, originally a wandering stream, crosses this township from north to south. The Ocheyedan valley is quite broad and contains good land. Some of the bottoms are too wet for cultivation but make fine pasture and meadow. Some of the best meadows in the county are in the Ocheyedan valley. A big ditch has been recently made by a dredge, thereby straightening the stream and making more of the land fit for cultivation. The speculators got only one of the even numbered sections—section 26—in this township. The rest of the government land was taken by homesteaders.

Section 2. This was taken by Mark M. Smith, Ashley Smith, T. A. Taylor, A. B. Elmore, C. R. Boyd and D. H. Boyd. Mr. Elmore and wife are both dead. The Boyds are still alive and reside in Ocheyedan and are among our most respected citizens. The Smiths have all moved away.



MAP OF OCHEYEDAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

Section 3. Among those who came later and established homes we find C. C. Simmons on section 3, who has a fine farm.

Section 4. On this section was Elder Dean, who held the first church services in the eastern part of the county—first in his own homestead shanty and afterwards on the claims of others in the neighborhood. More may be found about Elder Dean in the Sibley Congregational church items. Here also was E. N. More, who remained in the county until the time of his death a few years ago. Walter Woolridge was well known as he lived on the bank of the creek on the main road between Sibley and Ocheyedan. Jennie Keeler was a school teacher. James Dailey moved to California many years ago. Archibald Dailey was also here a short time. G. Pearson came from Marshalltown, Iowa, bought and settled on the old Dailey claim on section 4. On account of the homesickness of his wife he tried his best to sell out a few years after he came but, as luck would have it, he could not sell at that time. In time the wife became reconciled and he kept the land and became wealthy. He died in April, 1914.

Section 6. Here was George N. Taylor, who lives in Ocheyedan and is past ninety years of age. S. S. Parker later held the office of county recorder several years. He was possessed with the hallucination that he could trace a criminal in his mind and locate him. The term hallucination is used for the reason that he never got any results, but died still firm in his belief. He was an old soldier and did some secret service duty in the army and always had an idea that the rebels were still after him to get revenge for something he did while in the service and that he must always watch out and keep in hiding. He died a natural death a few years ago in South Dakota. He was a good citizen, a splendid neighbor and valuable friend. Other settlers in this section were Fred Kirby, J. C. Moore and David J. Jones. Kirby and Jones both died in this county.

Section 8. William D. Dunning and Rosetta Smith. Later Dunning and Mrs. Smith married and both died many years ago. Franklin Frick moved to California and is now dead. Elihu Dubbs and John Hanon also had claims on this section but were not permanent residents.

Section 10. Here Cline Bull, one of the early successful bankers, filed on and secured a quarter section under the timber-culture act, generally called a tree claim. Mrs. Maria P. Pell, wife of Rev. John Pell, secured a quarter section for the minor heirs, William H. Kimberly and Delia A. Kimberly. Will Kimberly later was clerk of courts several terms, studied for the ministry and is now engaged in missionary work in Nebraska. Delia

A. Kimberly was for many years a popular school teacher in this county and died a few years ago. Her funeral was held from the Allendorf church and was one of the largest ever held in the county. The Des Moines Valley Railroad Company secured the south half of this section as indemnity land.

Section 12. John H. Johnson died on his claim several years ago. William M. Combs, a transient, also had a claim here. Alden Carpenter will be remembered as the father of Mrs. A. Romey, of Sibley. He and his wife died at the home of Mr. Romey several years ago. James M. Sutton, who was quite a noted cattle man, is dead.

Section 13. T. B. Fletcher is a man of affairs and a prominent citizen on section 13.

Section 14. On this section located George C. Farr, L. T. Tatum, Carl Boer and Luke Horriban. Horriban was an extensive cattle raiser and at one time had the whole Ocheyedan valley for a herding ground. He died a few years ago in South Dakota.

The claim of D. D. McCallum was on this section. He spent his odd moments reading law and was admitted to the bar and practised in Sibley. Later he received the nomination for district judge on the Republican ticket and was elected. He died from cancer of the face and neck. His son, A. W. McCallum, served several terms as clerk of district court and is now doing a prosperous abstract business in Sibley. Mrs. D. D. McCallum lives in Sibley with her son.

Section 18. Edgar Cole was a transient. Joseph Kirby died in Ocheyedan. Thomas P. Bailey moved from this section to Springfield, Missouri, where he recently died. Eugene Hayes did not remain long.

Section 20. Charles A. Stevens was a permanent settler. Edward Lord early moved to Sibley and later to the far west where he died. Mary Ann Naggs was the widow of Fred Naggs, who lost his life in the February blizzard of 1872.

Section 22. Amos Buchman lived in a dug-out on the bank of the Ocheyedan which had belonged to trappers some years before. Mr. Buchman was a tailor by trade, a good tailor but a poor farmer. He clung to his claim long enough to get a patent and eventually moved to Sibley and worked at his trade until near the time of his death. T. L. Hayes, Ludwig Grodt and Helmuth Steffenhagen were other settlers in this section. The two latter moved to Ocheyedan where Steffenhagen died and Mr. Graves is leading a quiet and retired life.

Section 24. Of Peter Weinland, Joseph M. Rice and Charles Grodt not much is known. The Tatums all moved south a short time ago. Joseph

P. Tower, or "Old man Tower" as he was called, had such an extremely hard experience that mention of it should be made so people living here now surrounded by comfort available in this latitude may know how people clung to the land in that early day. Mr. Tower was a veteran of the Civil War but was not receiving any pension at that time. He had a wife, but was too poor and decrepit and broken in health to support a home. He was also afflicted with fever sores on his legs that kept him from working or getting round very much. Mrs. Tower lived with her own folks in Washburn county, Wisconsin, while Mr. Tower drifted into this county to file on one hundred and sixty acres of land. He did odd chores for the neighbors for something to eat and when the weather would permit slept on his claim in a cave with a few boards over it. He was unable to do any hard work and although all his neighbors had about as much as they could do to get along yet they were inclined to help him secure title to his land. However he was possessed with the idea that they wanted to jump his claim and kept himself miserable worrying about it. The winter before he could prove up he secured a leave of absence from his claim and went to Milford and cared for a drove of swine for his board and in the meantime made enough money to pay the government entry fee. He spent the last summer on and around his claim and in the early fall came to Sibley to make final proof before the clerk of the district court. Old, decrepit, ragged and gray, the clerk took his evidence, but had to have two witnesses. He was so afraid his neighbors would jump his claim that he dared not ask them. The clerk, knowing them all, said he would find the witnesses. When the matter of the land office fee was reached he had to have help to rip his clothing in which he had sewed his money for fear of being robbed. In getting his change, all in small pieces, a few old dry crusts of bread that he had to live on during the trip, came to view. When his clothing was thoroughly searched for money and counted he was one dollar and forty cents short. It would be hard to conceive of a picture of more despondent misery than was depicted on that poor old man's countenance when it was discovered that he had not money enough. However the clerk told him not to worry—that he would make up the difference. The clerk later took him home and gave him something to eat and supplied him with a package of grub to last him until he reached home. The next day it was very little trouble to find the two witnesses required. In fact, it was discovered that all of his neighbors would have made it hot for any one who would have attempted to contest his claim. The proof was forwarded to the United States land office at Des Moines with draft for the required fee. Thinking the land officers might be interested, the clerk

wrote them the old man's condition and story. In due time the final receipt arrived and with a return of the draft with these words, "Mr. Griffin and myself decline to receive any money from this claimant. Please return the draft to Mr. Tower and long may he wave." The draft and final receipt was sent to him and he was never seen in the county again. This proof was made in October, 1875. The records disclose that on December 16, 1887, a warranty deed, free from all incumbrance, was filed in the recorder's office in which the consideration appears as forty-seven dollars and life support. Mr. Tower was probably never very smart, but if the recording angel's records could be scanned his name would no doubt appear in a prominent place among the heroes.

Section 25. J. D. Kelley has a nice half section farm on sections 25 and 26.

Section 26. This section was taken by speculators.

Section 28. Wallace A. Chamberlain, John N. Coleman, Isaac Middleton, James Middleton and A. S. Lewis left early. Claus Yess, a hard working German, settled on this section. He bought more land and the land and crops made him wealthy. Mr. Yess now lives in Ocheyedan enjoying the fruits of his hard work and good judgment.

Section 30. Here was William H. Hays, D. W. Chamberlain, and Edgar Frary. Mr. Frary died a few years ago. Huston A. Doolittle served through the Civil War and now lives in Sibley.

Section 32. John Rode died in Melvin a few years ago. W. H. Barkhuff died on his claim several years ago. W. R. Smith is in the country yet. John Brammer is dead. Little is known of Luther L. Webb.

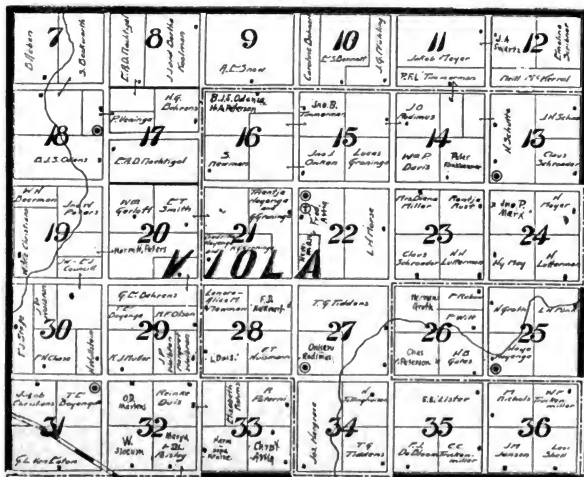
Section 34. Lewis Thomas, Delos Lyons and George Williams did not remain long enough to be termed permanent residents. John Hesbeck still owns his land but has retired and now resides in the town of Ocheyedan. John D. Smith is in the far west.

VIOLA TOWNSHIP.

This township was set off from Horton in the seventies and the homesteaders were as follows:

Section 8. Obed Averill, Alonzo Averill, Elmer Mulinex, David Averill. Alonzo Averill later moved to Sibley where he lived many years and then moved to southern California where he died a few years ago. His widow now lives in Los Angeles, California.

Section 10. Here settled William Rubow, who about thirty years ago



MAP OF VIOLA TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

sold his farm and moved to southwestern Iowa where he now resides. Charles Bennett remained only a short time. E. S. Bennett remained on his claim many years and finally retired from farming and moved to Sibley. Mr. Bennett is one of many others who have always been satisfied with northwestern Iowa.

Section 12. On this section was Charles C. J. Ball, whose stay was short. Emaline Scribner and J. F. Scribner were also transients. Peter Shaw later retired to Sibley, and when the Burlington Railroad came into the county, he went to the new town of Melvin and established the first pool hall and lunch counter in that town. A few years ago he returned to Sibley and is now enjoying a retired life of ease.

Section 14. Here was Charles A. Shaw, who remained in the county until the time of his death many years ago. J. F. Ramsen left early. Charles C. Ogan lived on his claim a few years and then moved to Sibley where he remained a few years and then moved on. It is reported that he died last year. John H. Douglass was closely identified with the early history of this county. He was sheriff several terms and won the reputation of guarding the interests of the homesteaders against agents who attempted to enforce collection of machine debts, a fact which made him very popular. He belonged to no political party, but always ran for office as an independent candidate. He called himself a Mugwump. He earned much money as sheriff and in working for the Iowa Land Company. Besides he received a pension, but he spent it all as fast as earned. He was generous to a fault and would give away his last dollar as freely as though he was a millionaire. He looked for every one to do the same by him with the result that he died a few years ago in destitution. It was his philosophy of life to spend his money for himself and family as he went along and who will say he was wrong. That was his choice.

Section 18. Here again appear Alonzo Averill, Elmer Mulinex, Sidney Beckwith, A. B. Graves and Abigail Beeman. During the grasshopper scourge Sidney Beckwith drove his team over to Pierre, South Dakota, and hauled freight to the Black Hills until the distress here was over. He then returned to his claim and settled down to general farming and stock raising. As his stock increased he bought more land and waxed rich. Recently he retired from the farm and moved to southern California where he is enjoying life to the fullest, still holding his land.

Section 20. Here settled Edward Smith, J. H. Smith, Samuel B. Smith, John Tamm, a brother-in-law of the Smiths, and Cornelius Collison. J. H.

Smith is dead. Samuel B. Smith, at last report, was living in Minnesota. Edward Smith lived on his land until about twenty years ago when he moved to Little Rock and engaged in the hardware business and prospered. He bought more land and still holds it, but is now leading a retired life in Little Rock.

Section 22. Here settled M. D. Hadsell, John Joseph, J. H. Hart and John P. Hawxhurst. Of this number only Mr. Hawxhurst remained to make a permanent citizen and he early took up his residence in Sibley. He married Miss Thomas, a sister of Will Thomas. He was editor of the *Sibley Gazette* for many years and later clerk of the district court several terms. He was prominent in the Masonic order and died in Sibley a few years ago. He was a good and useful citizen.

Fred Attig and L. H. Morse each own a half section on 22 and were quite early settlers and first-class farmers and good money makers. They still live on their farms, both drive automobiles and appear prosperous and happy.

Section 24. Here was Lyman Clark, George W. Ketcham, Merritt R. Winchester, Jeremiah Burgh and N. Irwin Wetmore, all of whom remained long enough to be well known, but sold and left the country before realizing much benefit from the material prosperity of the country. Mr. Ketcham will be particularly remembered for his peculiarities and eccentricities.

Section 26. E. Headley did not become a permanent citizen. J. S. Patterson remained on his original claim until the time of his death a few years ago except two or three years in Sibley just before his death. He was an old soldier and a highly respected citizen. His widow survives him. Jackson Blair was a stirring and influential citizen who sold about twenty years ago and moved to Nebraska. He visited in Sibley during the summer of 1913 and is looking well and prosperous. Willis H. Gates lived on his claim until he was elected to the office of county recorder and then moved to Sibley and made a popular and efficient officer several terms. He died in Sibley a few years ago highly respected. His widow survives him and lives in Sibley.

Section 28. George Carew settled on this section, but early moved to Sibley and bought the *Sibley Gazette* and managed it many years. John P. Hawxhurst was his editor. Mr. Carew died in Sibley many years ago. David B. Wood also settled here. About thirty years ago he sold and moved to Springfield, Missouri, where he died recently. R. J. Willy was a transient. Hugh Jordon was an attorney in the early history of Sibley and, being an old soldier, filed on a quarter section for what there was in it, a customary

procedure during those early times. Mr. Jordan remained in Sibley and practiced law until the time of his death many years ago. His widow survives in Sibley. Henry Hall came so early he should be mentioned with the early settlers. He was street commissioner in Sibley for many years.

Section 29. J. P. Walbran settled on section 29 and engaged exclusively in general farming and has prospered.

Section 30. This section was settled by Henry Gresham, A. G. Vanderscum, Charles Nulton and Theodore J. Stage. Mr. Stage proved to be the only stayer on this section. The rest were well known but could not stand the pressure of the hard times and sold for a trifle and left. Mr. Stage is now leading a retired life in Sibley and is a useful and respected citizen. Frank Chase should also be recorded among the early settlers of this section. He commenced working for Mr. Walbran when a mere boy and he proved to be a faithful farm hand. He married the daughter of Mr. Walbran and set out farming for himself on section 30 and now is one of the prosperous farmers and land owners of Viola township.

Section 32. George S. Downend was a prominent man in public affairs and an able county supervisor several terms. Some twenty-five years ago he sold and moved to southwestern Iowa and later to Missouri where he still resides.

George W. Turk died early and his family are scattered. One of his sons lives in Little Rock. Abram Shapley filed as an old soldier on the southwest quarter of this section and early bought the northwest quarter. The last year of the grasshopper scourge he had nearly all of this half section in flax. About the time it was all up and looking fine the hoppers hatched out on the whole half section so thick that the ground was literally alive with them. Of course that looked extremely discouraging and Mr. Shapley spent considerable time and money trying to sell at ten dollars an acre. He had a fine grove started and good buildings and although his offer was very cheap yet he could not find a buyer. Fortunately as soon as the hoppers gained a little strength they hopped off without doing the crop very much damage and Mr. Shapley harvested his flax and realized the ten dollars per acre for all his land. He kept the land until it brought a good price, when he sold it and retired to Sibley, where he died a few years ago.

P. L. Piesly was a hard worker and for many years was the principal stock buyer and shipper in this vicinity. He died on his home farm some years ago. His widow now lives in Sibley and his son manages the farm.

Section 33. Peter Rhemes is on section 33.

Section 34. J. F. Bough and M. M. Horton did not stay long. William

E. Ripley was an old soldier and received a liberal pension on account of his defective vision, incurred as a result of the service, and shortly after proving up moved to Sibley where he died many years ago. His widow still resides in Sibley. John F. Stamm held the office of sheriff three terms and made a faithful officer. He also was an old soldier and died in Sibley a few years ago. His widow survives him and resides in Sibley. James F. Van-Emburg left early.

Section 36. Charles C. Torry was a carpenter and early moved to Sibley and worked at his trade a few years and left the country. Joseph Ferrin lived and worked his claim a good many years, but about thirty years ago sold out and moved to Wisconsin where he died two or three years ago. He was a single man and farmed at a disadvantage. David Watt was a transient and little known. Levi Shell, being a veteran of the Civil War, filed on a quarter of this section and still owns the same. It is now a well improved farm worked and managed by Mr. Lehman, a son-in-law of Mr. Shell. Mr. Shell was one of the first lumber merchants of Sibley and still resides in Sibley and is the senior member of the Shell Lumber Company, which is doing an extensive business in building material and cement.

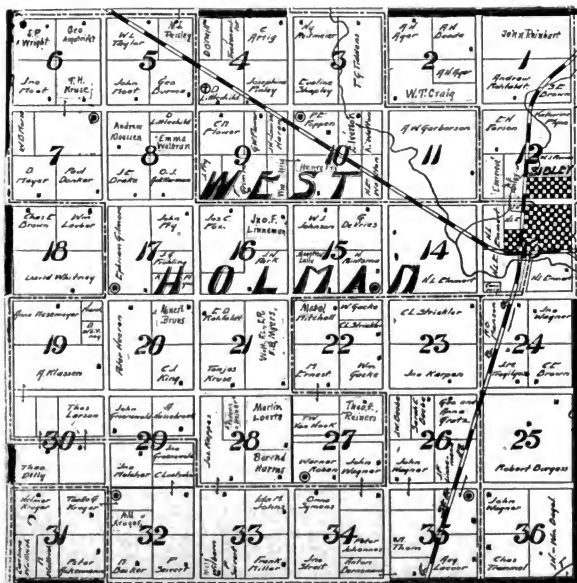
Among the more recent arrivals of prosperous farmers are H. C. Conradt, J. G. Groenewald, Thomas Giken, S. Gardas, E. A. D. Nachtingal, H. J. Onken, Henry, John J. and Peter J. Onken, C. H. Slocum, and C. C. and William Truckenmiller. William Truckenmiller is building in Sibley this year preparatory to living in town. There are many other thrifty farmers in this township but space will not permit mention of them all. Viola township is one of the garden spots of the county. The land is good and it is thoroughly handled.

This township supports six public schools and there is a German church on section 22. The present township officers are Herman Groth, John Onken and E. A. D. Nachtingal, trustees; Lamber Duis, clerk; M. F. Olson, constable and Jake Redinius, assessor.

WEST HOLMAN TOWNSHIP.

Section 1. Among those who came later after the hard times were about at an end we find, on section 1, Andrew Rahfeldt, who has succeeded with cattle and hogs principally, although he sells some grain each year. He raises Shorthorn cattle and Poland China hogs. He is a good farmer and successful business man and is doing well.

Section 2. Here was Girard Post and David Bushel, both transients.



MAP OF WEST HOLMAN TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

James K. Shaw entered a quarter section on this section. Mr. Shaw did a prosperous land business in Sibley several years. Finally he and his family moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, where he now resides and is quite prosperous. A. H. Agar now owns and lives on the Shaw farm and is one of our most successful and enterprising farmers. Moses V. Beede entered the southwest quarter of this section and lived on his claim many years. He lived in Sibley for several years, and from there moved to Ellsworth, Iowa, where he died poor. He was most prosperous while living on the farm, but was discontented. He labored under the delusion that he was cut out for a business career. A. H. Baade owns and occupies the northeast quarter of this section and has a fine home. He came from Parkersburg, Iowa. He and his son Fred are prosperous and happy. Leroy Phillips located on this section, but remained only a short time. A. H. Baade came from Parkersburg, Iowa, where he had been working a large dairy farm, and bought his present farm at twenty-six dollars per acre and built a good house and barn. Now his land is worth one hundred and fifty dollars an acre, but is not for sale. His son, Fred, works with him and they are successful and contented. Bert Agar, after being here a few years, thought he could find some place that would suit him better, so he sold and looked around one season, but finding no place that looked as good to him he bought back at an advance, it is said, of two thousand dollars and has ever since been contented. He has put up a fine set of buildings and bought another eighty, so his home farm now consists of two hundred and forty acres. He is a successful corn raiser and cattle and hog feeder.

Section 4. Robert Stamm settled here and stuck to his claim until the time of his death, a few years ago. He was always active in all farmers' meetings. B. A. Stamm later moved to Sibley, where he died recently. Orrin W. Townner and Bela Churchill were transients. W. H. Morrison, who started the first nursery in this county, located on this section. The grasshoppers were so hard on his young trees that he became discouraged and gradually worked out of the nursery business and moved to Sibley, where he conducted a jewelry store. He was for many years treasurer of the township. Later he moved to Kettle Falls, Washington, where he died. His widow still resides in Kettle Falls.

Section 5. W. L. Taylor came from Wisconsin with his brother, John Taylor. John became discontented, sold and moved to South Dakota, but W. L. remained and has succeeded to a marked degree. He is not only a thorough farmer but a good stock raiser. He believes in mixed farming and keeps cattle, hogs and sheep successfully. He worked hard and steadily

and now has a fine farm. J. Moet is also on this section and is an excellent farmer. He always has something for the market at the proper time.

Section 6. On this section settled J. C. Irwin, Milton Irwin and Garrett Irwin, the latter being the only one of these Irwins left in the county. Here was Archel Tyler, long since dead. Charles A. Sawyer, who was Sibley's first grain buyer and coal dealer, soon moved to California and was lost sight of. James Baily was doing well here, but thought he could better his condition and prospects by selling and buying east of the Ochevedan, where land was cheaper and settlers not so thick and where he would have a better chance to raise cattle. He undertook to move in the early spring and was drowned while crossing the Ochevedan river during a time of high water. The proverb about a contented mind might apply in this case.

Section 7. Dick Meyers, who bought on this section, made money and got ahead a little each year. A few years ago he went to Germany on a visit and died suddenly on his return trip and was buried at sea. His widow is conducting the farm and doing well.

Section 8. This section was entered by Preston Bushel, Albion C. Sparine, Newton Richards and Charles H. Call. These men left no foot-prints. O. J. Ackerman is a thrifty farmer and doing well. J. Frey owns land on sections 9 and 17, and is a prosperous farmer. He is one of the influential farmers of West Holman. He has a large family and is prosperous. He is always a good friend to have in time of need.

Section 9. C. N. and G. W. Flower are prosperous farmers on this section. They do not strive for leadership, but are at their job every day in the year and are making money. R. Fruhling bought the old Captain Riley place and handled it successfully until land was pretty well up in price, when he sold and moved to Sibley, where he engaged in the stock business. He is now with Frank Kennedy, and they are the principal stock buyers and shippers in Sibley, doing a safe and profitable business.

Section 10. Here was Elbridge Morrison, who died in Sibley recently. Jacob C. Miller did not remain long. John Beaumont was an Englishman and quite active in getting out among his neighbors. He was the first secretary of the school board of Holman township and a loyal supporter of the gang of get-rich-quick fellows. This gang rewarded its supporters. While Beaumont was secretary of the school board a new school house was to be built in the Beaumont district and it was proposed to give him the old school house, which would make a very good addition to his homestead shack. A resolution was passed granting Beaumont an advance of twenty-five dollars in salary, and at the same meeting another resolution was passed

and recorded to accept the Beaumont offer of twenty-five dollars for the old school building. That building is still a part of the house on the Beaumont farm. Here was the claim of Captain D. L. Riley, who was for many years a lumber merchant in Sibley and one of the board of supervisors. Osceola county owes much to Captain Riley for being redeemed from the gang and the business of the county placed on an honest and economical basis. William E. Rose left no mark.

Section 11. A. W. Garberson came from Wall Lake, Iowa, and bought section 11 and has made extensive improvements on it. He secured it at a bargain and now it is very valuable. He rents the farm and has a fine residence in Sibley, where he lives.

Section 12. William A. Laughrey was hardly known. Here was Edward Shufelt, who got big prices for painting school houses and other public buildings for the gang. He died in Canton, South Dakota, recently. Leonard Chamberlain held his claim as long as he could as a homestead and then surrendered his certificate and re-entered it as a tree claim under the timber culture act. He thus kept it off the tax list about fifteen years. The principal mark he left is the fine grove on the "Ash Hill" or Person farm, one-half mile north of Sibley. Mr. Chamberlain died in California. John D. Blake, Warren B. Lathrop and Frank Stiles were other settlers. The Stiles eighty was bought by Captain R. J. Chase, platted into lots and blocks and called Chase's addition to Sibley. These lots were all sold and now constitute quite a portion of the town. Stiles was one of the gang. He was the first sheriff and his wife the first county superintendent of schools. Both were found dead in a hotel in North Dakota a few months ago. They were asphyxiated. The southwest quarter of section 12 was always considered as the claim of J. H. Winspear, who was the head and furnished the brains of the grafter gang. In fact, he was the only one of the gang who left the county with any money. Winspear built the house on this quarter. This house was later sold to Ted Baker, a mason, who moved it to its present location and it is now a part of the Rustin residence. The quarter was entered by John D. Blake and Warren B. Lathrop, who transferred it to Shuck and Deland. Shuck was one of the early lumber merchants of Sibley and got into all kinds of financial difficulties. The consideration was one hundred and twenty-seven dollars for each eighty. It is now worth about twice that amount per acre. Lance Polley now owns and resides on the east eighty. John D. Blake and Warren B. Lathrop were either dummies or straw men. People who were here all through those early days knew of no such men. The Winspear residence and the Stiles residence were just

across the railroad track from one another. Lance Polly now occupies one location and W. J. Miller the other. David Littlechild boarded with Stiles and worked more or less for Winspear, planting trees and otherwise improving the place. Winspear always called it his claim. It is looked upon as one of the "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" and hard to understand. Another remarkable circumstance about it is that it should be sold so cheap. But Winspear was at the end of his rope in this county and thought best to get away quickly. While Winspear furnished the brains, "Old Stiles," as he was called, supplied the gall in abundant quantities. May their souls rest in peace.

Section 13. E. N. Person bought the old Chamberlain claim, the north-west quarter of this section, and engaged in the dairy business until he worked off the indebtedness on his farm. He then quit his dairy business, but continued to keep cows and hogs until he accumulated enough to buy a comfortable home in Sibley. His son having married, he retired last year and left the management of the farm to the young man.

Section 14. Henry L. Baker was a brother-in-law of Captain R. J. Chase. Baker was Sibley's first milkman, but sold to H. L. Emmert before land became very valuable. Thomas Parland, a cranky old Englishman, also sold early to Mr. Emmert. W. W. Crum was a brother-in-law of Parland and many years a prominent citizen here. Mr. Crum is now living in Sioux City. His son, Frank Crum, lives in Sibley and for many years has been the county bridge builder. Myron Churchill also had a claim here and in a few years sold to Mr. Emmert and moved to Sibley, engaging in the grocery business. Later he moved to Kettle Falls, Washington, where he now resides. H. L. Emmert secured possession of all this section and converted it into a model stock farm. He sold it recently at a good price. H. L. Emmert, Sibley's first banker, bought, piece by piece, all of section 14. The people who entered section 14 owed him and he reluctantly bought their farms to save himself from prospective loss. He made a model farm of it and recently sold it at about one hundred and thirty-five dollars per acre. He did not buy it as a money making proposition, but to save himself.

Section 15. George DeVries, Henry Reinsma and W. J. Johnson are all prosperous farmers on this section and all have fine improvements. Ed. Rahfeldt came some ten or twelve years ago and built a large feed barn in Sibley, where farmers can drive in and have a warm, dry place for their teams while in town, for ten cents. The barn was a success, but as Mr. Rahfeldt had a growing family, he traded his barn for a quarter section on

section 16, owned by Daniel Fox, who was getting too old to conduct farming operations. Mr. Rahfeldt is now a prosperous farmer.

Section 16. J. C. Fox bought two hundred and forty acres on section 16 about twenty years ago at twenty-two dollars an acre. He and his children have worked the farm successfully and his land is now worth one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre. James A. Park also bought two hundred and forty acres about the same time and at the same price. He fenced and put up a full set of farm buildings. He has recently rented the farm and bought and moved to a nicely improved five-acre tract near Sibley. He would not sell his farm for one hundred and twenty-five dollars an acre.

Section 18. Here was Miles A. Hamlin, who was a soldier in the Civil War, and drew a small pension. He built a house on his claim and put the land in cultivation, then borrowed two thousand dollars on the farm and retired to Sibley. Being a single man he boarded at the hotel. When his loan became due he increased the mortgage and used the cash he received to eke out his pension for a living. The third and last loan was for four thousand dollars. When that cash was all gone he sold the farm and lived for a time in the Old Soldiers' Home, at Hot Springs, South Dakota, and later moved to California, where he is now living. That was his way of making his claim support him. When he dies there will be no estate to settle. Thomas S. Brennon and John Brennon were never actual settlers here, but lived in Sioux City, where John Brennon edited a Roman Catholic paper. He will also be remembered as an eloquent and patriotic speaker. David Whitney still resides on his original claim. He bought more land and is now quite wealthy.

Section 19. A. Klaasson bought a quarter of section 19 and made money. In 1913 he bought a good home in Sibley and retired.

Section 20. P. Herron has a half section farm on section 20 and has been getting rich. He owns another good farm in Minnesota. John Coughlin settled on this section. He was always quite poor while he lived here, but reared a large family and finally got enough together to make a first mayment on a larger farm in Clark county, South Dakota, at just the right time and has since prospered. He is now in comfortable circumstances. Edward Lindsey was always very poor. He was one of the homesteaders who had to have help. One winter he and his family camped in the court room of the court house at the county's expense. He died long ago. F. M. Palmer left early. C. M. Bailey soon moved into Sibley and was the village blacksmith many years. Later he secured an appointment under the state auditor, who was

one of his old army comrades, and moved to Des Moines, where he died several years ago.

Section 22. George F. Nixon died in Sibley last year, aged ninety-three years. Edward Carnes was section boss on the railroad and, being a good, intelligent and temperate man, was raised to roadmaster. He died in Worthington, Minnesota, several years ago. A. W. Mitchell was Sibley's first furniture dealer and undertaker. He sold his business to the Walton Brothers and was one of the rural mail carriers several years. He died recently and his widow and two of his daughters still live in Sibley. Thomas Heck left no tracks. Patrick Larkin was a railroad section boss. William Gache bought one hundred and sixty acres on section 22 about eight years ago, soon paid for it, then bought another eighty acres on the same section, soon paid for that, last year purchased still another eighty just across the road from his first quarter at one hundred and thirty-five dollars per acre and is now paying for that. His experience shows what a good farmer who has a good working family can do with land in this country.

Section 23. C. L. Strickler came here about twenty-five years ago and purchased the north half of section 23. He fenced, planted a grove and put on a set of farm buildings and, being a successful general farmer, made money. He since bought eighty acres on section 22, so now has four hundred acres of fine improved land. His buildings are one mile from Sibley. He has refused one hundred and fifty dollars an acre for his farm and thinks it is worth one hundred and seventy-five dollars an acre. Being out of debt and having money out at interest he has recently rented his land and retired to Sibley. He is still an active man and is president of the Farmers Elevator Company and takes much interest in its management. John Karpen, a mason by trade, made enough money to make a first payment, and bought the south half of section 23 about twenty-five years ago. Some years ago his wife died, but having a daughter old enough to keep house, he and his boys continued on the farm. Last year he sold eighty acres to William Gache for one hundred and thirty-five dollars an acre. This amounted to more than the three hundred and twenty acres originally cost him. He has two hundred and forty acres with the improvements and stock and is out of debt.

Section 24. Here was A. M. Culver, the first treasurer of this county. He died in the Soldiers' Home a few years ago. Andrew Culver, a son of A. M. Culver, lives in Sibley and is a carpenter and builder, and while not wealthy, is in comfortable circumstances. George W. Bean, a son-in-law of A. M. Culver, died in Sibley about ten years ago. Rodney O. Manson,

who, about twelve years ago, staked his fortunes on eight hundred acres of land in Bottineau county, North Dakota, land, won out and is now quite wealthy, living at his ease in southern California. He still owns his original claim here.

Section 26. Here was Marlin H. Hughes, a former saloon keeper, who entered this land as a gambling proposition in the hope of selling at a good profit. Lorenzo S. McCremly was a transient. Justice R. Rice left at an early date. Frederick L. Ward professed to be a doctor.

Section 28. John L. Robinson, who located on this section, built the first house in Sibley. He died in Sibley at the advanced age of ninety-eight years. Frank M. Robinson, the first auditor of Osceola county, was a son of John L. Robinson, but could not be controlled by the grafters. He was a capable and honest official. L. J. Robinson and Julia A. Palmer completed the occupancy of this section. F. Hinders is a successful farmer of this section.

Section 29. A. Hessebrook settled on section 29 and is a good farmer as well as a successful beeman. He had about seventy swarms in 1910, when all the bees in the county died and his went with the rest. 1910 was such a poor honey season the bees did not have supplies enough to carry them through. J. Gronewall is another good German farmer on section 29.

Section 30. Thomas Jackson, who settled here later, sold his claim and bought cheaper land in the eastern and more sparsely settled part of the county. Later he sold again and moved to southwestern Missouri, where he died recently. Smith Aldrich and Carrie A. Bailey, of whom very little was known, entered claims on this section. Jacob Sperts located here permanently. He was one of the German settlers, most of whom located in Gilman township. C. B. Kent also located here, but left early.

Section 31. Tom Larson came here poor and by hard work, good judgment and economy is now well off and still not an old man. He made it all by farming during the last twenty years.

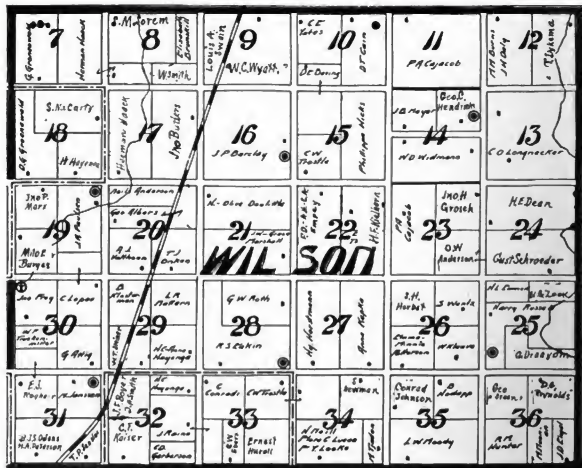
Section 32. David Littlechild filed on an eighty on this section, built a shanty and broke forty acres. He put in two crops which promised well until the grasshoppers came and harvested both crops. Being discouraged he relinquished his claim to John Melcher for a consideration of two hundred dollars and a yoke of oxen valued at one hundred dollars. Mr. Melcher spent many happy and prosperous years on this land and finally retired to Ashton, where he died last year, at an advanced age, loved and respected by all who knew him. The other homesteaders on this section were Ulrich B.

Keniston, Samuel S. Smith and Samuel S. Thompson. These last three settlers made little impression.

Section 34. Here was George Mathewson, who left early. Nels Thompson later conducted a farm implement business in Sibley and finally moved to South Dakota. Thomas Thompson remained through the hard times, but finally sold and moved on west before getting the benefit of the later advance in the price of land.

David Johns, or "Shorty" Jones, as he was commonly called, died in Ashton a few years ago. R. Zensen was one of the settlers here whose building spot was on the bank of the Otter creek. He was a permanent settler and a good and valuable citizen. Ole Thompson located here, but did not remain long.

Section 36. Jessie W. Kern filed here, but soon moved away. C. N. Sawyer was the first grain buyer in Sibley. The last known of him he was in California. David Chambers died in Sibley a few years ago. Abe Miller did not remain long. On this section there were two such peculiar men that they should receive a little more than passing notice, William R. Belcher and J. B. Jenney. Belcher was a big, tall man and a trapper by profession. Nothing was wasted with him. He saved the pelts for sale and ate the flesh. When the settlers began to thicken around him he sold out and moved on west. He had several cows and used them as other people used oxen. He broke prairie with a cow team and drove them to town—in fact, he used them for general team work. When he sold out he hitched a yoke of cows to his covered wagon, started for the Black Hills and was drowned while trying to cross the Jim river in South Dakota. J. B. Jenney bought Belcher's farm. Mr. Jenney first located on section 32 in East Holman on eighty acres, but relinquished it to Edson Harvey, a brother of Mahlon Harvey. Edson Harvey relinquished to Mr. Phillips, who entered it as a tree claim, and the trees he planted to comply with the timber culture act now constitute the fine big grove of heavy timber on the Janes farm. The growing timber in that grove will supply the farm with fuel and posts for all time. Mr. Jenney, who bought the Belcher claim, was a well educated, Christian gentleman. He came from a dairy county in the state of New York and farmed here the same as he had learned in his old home and for a time prospered fairly well, but misfortune seemed to be on his trail. He had four children, all girls. His first misfortune was the death of one of his children by diphtheria. Then his wife, who was a hard working woman, had to go to the insane asylum, where she soon committed suicide. He then tried to continue



MAP OF WILSON TOWNSHIP, OSCEOLA COUNTY

on the farm with a housekeeper, but finding that unsatisfactory, he sold the farm and moved to Hull, Sioux county, to give his girls the advantages of an education in Hull Academy. One of the girls proved to be bright in her studies and graduated with honors. The other preferred to stay at home and keep house. About this time Mr. Jenney became obsessed with the idea that he ought to be a land agent and chose Sioux Falls as a favorable point of operation. They were in Sioux Falls only a short time when the obsession of the land business evaporated. He then engaged in potato and truck raising, from which he made a precarious living for a time. During this latter experience the family made the acquaintance of a wealthy widow who had a large house and extensive grounds, and arrangement was made for the family to move in, Mr. Jenney to care for the grounds. In the meantime the educated daughter, Lilly, married a young man, who was a carpenter by trade but of not a very robust constitution. Eventually this wealthy widow, who had another home in Florida, concluded to move to the latter place and make that her permanent home. She induced the young married couple to go with her for company with the hope that it might prove beneficial to both the young people in the way of improved health. Soon after this a longing took possession of Mr. Jenney to go back to New York and visit old scenes and his brother, and, perhaps, make that his permanent home. On their way to New York he and Belle, the other daughter, visited old friends in Sibley. At that time it was plain that the peculiarities of Mr. Jenney had increased. A few weeks in New York demonstrated there was no opening for them there and as they had a little money left, they moved to Florida, where the other young people were. The son-in-law commenced a small house for them, but before it was completed he died. From a letter received from one of the girls to a Sibley friend recently it was learned that Lilly is postmistress and a notary public in the little town where they are located and Belle took care of the father, who passed away March 10, 1914, at LaBelle, Florida. There was tragedy in the lives of both men, who were early settlers on the northwest quarter of 36.

WILSON TOWNSHIP.

This township was settled at the same time as the rest of the western half of the county by the same thrifty class of people. Several remained but a short time, but many of them remained and became prominent in company affairs.

Section 8 was taken by Joseph F. Fairfax, James C. Warrington, R. S.

Eakin and John Colvin. All were transients except Mr. Eakin, who later moved to section 28, where he now owns a four-hundred-acre farm, making him one of the wealthy men of the county. He now lives in Sibley and his son lives on the farm.

Section 10 was settled by H. C. Morey, who later moved to Sibley and engaged in the carpenter business and is now a rural mail carrier. Alfred A. Allen and Charles L. V. Berg were transients. William P. Rhodes soon moved into Sibley and was for many years an efficient street commissioner. He finally moved to the state of Washington, where he died several years ago.

Section 12 was taken by Sylvester Johnson and L. J. Dawley, neither of whom remained very long. Dawley stayed a few years.

Section 14. Here we find William P. Rhodes again. He had a homestead and a tree claim. He put in a few years of his time in cultivating the trees on his tree claim after he moved to Sibley. Reuben Clark remained several years and finally returned to Illinois. William Yahn remained on his claim through the grasshopper times and several years later. Finally he moved to Bigelow, Minnesota, and operated a threshing machine several years. He died many years ago. Emanuel Nix was a transient.

Section 18 was taken by E. A. Frazier, William R. Rood, J. K. Shaw, C. H. Smith and William Boyer. Mr. Shaw now lives in Bigelow, Minnesota. Frazier and Rood were "flitters." Smith and Boyer are both reported dead.

Section 20. Aldon B. Willy; DeForrest D. Bennett, who now lives in southern California; H. R. Fenton and Benjamin F. Tabler both died quite a number of years ago.

Section 22. William N. Bon, Will Thomas, J. G. Miller, Elizabeth Thomas and John H. A. Thomas. The Thomases and Millers later moved to Sibley. Will Thomas was clerk of the district court several terms. He was one of the prime movers in the organization of the Osceola County Farmers Mutual Fire and Lightning Association, which has been in successful operation many years. Mr. Thomas has been the secretary of this association since its organization, and much of its marked success is due to his able and careful management. John Thomas learned the drug business with his brother-in-law, W. R. Lawrence, a druggist of Sibley, and later moved to Nebraska, where he still lives.

Section 24. Daniel J. Gates, Samuel J. Bowor, Isaac Sprecher and Samuel Schultz. These were all good and well-known men but did not remain long enough to reap the benefit they ought to have received by reason of their struggles through the worst of the hard times.

Section 26. William N. Bull soon moved to Sibley and later back east to his old home, where he died a few years ago. William P. Hawhurst spent most of his time in Sibley, where he was editor of the *Gazette* many years and later clerk of courts several terms. He was a careful and painstaking man. He died a few years ago. William N. Lee is now living in Sibley. John Klampe died many years ago. Elizabeth Davies is still alive.

Section 28. William J. Delworth, Randall Kinnie, Charles W. Fenton and William F. Herbert. Mr. Herbert, at last report, lived in the state of Washington. Robert S. Eakin is now a business man in Sibley.

Section 30. Ishmael Gardner's place of abode is unknown. Charles W. Wylls was for many years on the board of supervisors and was an able and painstaking officer. Some years ago he moved to the state of Washington, where he died of heart failure in 1905. His daughter visited in Sibley during the fall of 1913. William H. Cooper moved to Sibley and died many years ago. The history of Sophia Oleson and Gust Swanson is unknown. Daniel S. Shell, who was the first liveryman of Sibley, according to last reports, is living in Portland, Oregon.

Section 32. George F. Townner, Oscar Dunton, Thomas J. Cutshall, Sanborn J. Crum, Carlos P. Reynolds and Aaron H. Clark. Soon after the grafting of the first board of supervisors Mr. Dunton was elected to the board and served several terms with ability and honor. He did much to reduce the practice of the board to a useful and economical basis. Mr. Reynolds also served on the board with credit and honor. He is now living in comfort on an eighty-acre farm joining Sibley, for which he has refused two hundred and fifty dollars an acre. He is at present one of the Holman township trustees.

Section 34. Dewitt C. Blacker, John Field, Jacob Schuck, John Cronk and Allen Cloud. So far as known all these first settlers of this section are dead.

Section 36. Charles A. Kirkpatrick, Samuel J. Lyons, Henrich Moeller and August Jarr are all supposed to be dead.

Among the later farmers who came into this township is Joseph Raine, who bought the two-hundred-and-forty-acre farm of C. P. Reynolds. He first came into this county and rented a farm in Viola township and, after saving a little money, bought the Reynolds farm, largely on time, paying thirty-three dollars and thirty-three and one-third cents per acre. It was quite generally believed he would lose his meagre savings in a few years. But he kept up his interest and gradually paid off the principal until he was en-

tirely out of debt. Now he owns a fine farm and is one of the independent farmers of Osceola county. His is a fair example of the possibilities of farming in this county. Industry, economy and thrift have been the secret of his success.

Herman Hack bought and settled in this township about 1894 and proved to be an excellent farmer. He entered into general farming extensively and was making money when he was accidentally killed on the railroad crossing where the railroad crosses the Iowa and Minnesota state line. He was driving his automobile and it is a mystery to his family and friends how a bright, alert man as he was could get trapped as he did. This crossing is in a level, open country where both highway and railroad are visible for a long distance. His widow and family remain on the farm and manage it. Mr. Hack served on the board of supervisors several years and was nominated on the Democratic ticket for state representative, and although he ran ahead of his ticket, he was defeated at the polls by a small majority.

Dirk G. Gronewald bought on section 18 in 1901 and is one of Wilson's progressive farmers and is making good. George Attig bought on section 30 in 1902 and has one of the finest improved farms in the county, with extensive modern buildings. B. C. Hark bought on section 19 in 1895 and prospered so well that a few years ago he retired with a competence and is now living in Sibley and taking life easy in his comfortable home.

H. Horstmann came in 1895 and settled on section 27 and has a fine half section of land. When he took this farm in hand it had been poorly farmed for several years and was in poor condition. However, Mr. Horstmann and his family took hold in earnest and in a few years demonstrated what good cultivation will accomplish on Osceola county land. Of late years he and his family have made their home in Sibley.

Nearly all the first settlers of Wilson township were Americans and many of them were veterans of the Civil War. Owing to the wise management of its leading men, Thomas, Reynolds, Dunton, Eakin and others, Wilson township finances have always been in good shape, and in the early day its taxes were generally the lowest in the county.

This township has a German church located on section 30. The township supports six public schools. The present trustees are William B. Widman, D. G. Gronewald and C. A. Kepka, with Joseph Raine as clerk and William Kepka as assessor.



ONE OF THE LAST HOMESTEAD BUILDINGS IN OSCEOLA COUNTY, BUILT IN
1871, ONE MILE EAST OF SIBLEY

CHAPTER III.

CITIES AND TOWNS

SIBLEY.

Sibley was the first town in Osceola county, although Shaw's store was moved to Ashton about the same time. John L. Robinson built the first house in Sibley. H. K. Rogers was the first merchant and H. L. Emmert was the first banker. Mr. Rogers made a small fortune in the mercantile business here, and later moved to California, where he now resides. Mr. Emmert lost everything in the great Chicago fire of 1871. He borrowed a little money, came to Sibley in 1873 and started a bank. C. I. Hill was associated with him a short time. He later organized the First National Bank, sold some stock, but retained the controlling interest himself. This bank has always been one of the most substantial financial institutions of north-western Iowa. Its present officers are H. L. Emmert, president; W. T. Steiner, vice-president; J. Fred Mattert, cashier. Mr. Emmert is now a multi-millionaire, and lives in Winnipeg, Canada, where he has multiplied his fortune several times. Mr. Steiner is the local manager of the Emmert interests in and about Sibley, and Mr. Mattert manages the bank.

The furniture store of M. D. Harberts, in the brick building west of the bank, belongs to Dr. W. R. Lawrence, and stands where the old frame drug store stood, in which Doctor Lawrence conducted his drug business many years. Next is the old frame store which was built by C. M. Brooks, first clerk of courts of this county. This building is now vacant, preparatory to being replaced by a brick block. Next to the west is the old First National Bank site, where the first brick building in Sibley stood, used many years by the Emmert bank. Next is the Meader hardware building, now occupied by Cajacobs brothers as a general hardware store. Then comes the Parker drug store. W. L. Parker was one of the early-day druggists of Sibley. He died a few years ago and the business is now being successfully conducted by his only son, C. E. Parker. Next stands the grocery store of Albert Romey, a homesteader in Goewey township. He moved to Sibley in

the early days and, with the exception of eight years as postmaster, has been in business continuously since he came to town. Next is the Osceola House, owned and managed by J. W. Hickok. This is the site of the old Stiles hotel, where so much early history was incubated. Mr. Hickok and wife have been here about thirty years, and have enlarged the house in order to keep pace with the growth of the town.

Next comes what was for many years known as the Brown and Chambers corner store, managed a long time by C. E. Brown and W. H. Chambers, under the firm name of Brown & Chambers, both now dead. The big store is now conducted by the Brown brothers, under the firm name of C. E. Brown & Sons. Just across the street to the south is the Grohman block, the west room of which was occupied by a general stock, which was closed out in 1913 by C. W. Beeler, of Harris, who had purchased it. In the second room is a moving picture show, operated by Port Wilbern. The third room is occupied by J. C. Differding as a harness shop and store. In the last room is a small stock of notions, owned by Mrs. Cook. Next east of the Grohman block is the new garage, just completed by E. S. Robertson. Following to the east is the bakery and restaurant, and then the *Gazette* office. The *Gazette* is owned and edited by W. W. Overholser. It is the oldest paper in the county and is one of the official papers. In politics it has always been Republican.

Next is the Barclay block, the first room of which is occupied by the clothing department of C. E. Brown & Sons. In the next room east is Mrs. Gill's millinery store, and next is Searls' jewelry store. Then, in the O. J. Clark building, is the barber shop of Ed. McManus. Next, on the corner, is the Sibley State Bank, of which Frank Kennedy is president; A. W. McCallum, vice-president, and C. H. Royce, cashier. This bank has a good board of directors and is a strong organization, doing a clean and safe banking business. This bank was started by Cline Bull and J. T. Barclay, who also had the sale of the railroad lands, and consequently the land business was an important feature with this bank in the early days. Crossing the street to the east is found H. Walton's furniture store and undertaking establishment. Then follows in turn a cleaning and pressing room, a shoe shop and Clinton Hudson's cigar store and lunch counter. Next is the harness shop of T. F. Peel, followed by Robert Richardson's meat market. Mr. Richardson has conducted a meat market in Sibley more than forty years. Then comes the Italian fruit and candy store. That brings the public square around to the Central block, in the first room of which is the Sibley post-

office and George Baxter's news stand. In the second room is the drug room is found the Sibley Dry Goods Company, of which C. E. Hanchett is manager. Mr. Hanchett came here as a school teacher and eventually became a merchant. Following this comes E. M. Taylor, the popular clothier. Mr. Taylor is a native of this county, having lived here from boyhood and married an Osceola county girl. Then comes Hoeck & Richardson's grocery store on the corner, and still in Central block.

Crossing the street to the east is found Pulscher & Eyler's farm implement business. Crossing the street north and west is found Mr. Gould's new and up-to-date bakery. The next place of business is Mr. Deitrich's photograph gallery. Mr. Deitrich is the present mayor of Sibley. On the west is the Academy of Music, owned by J. S. Campbell, in the east room of which is Emil Tott's grocery store. In the basement under this store is Len Durfee, the plumber. In the west room and basement is J. J. Ellerbroek's "Kash Savin Stor." In the second story of this building is the opera house, managed by Dixon & Ellerbroek. In the next building is Madison Brothers' hardware store. On the corner is the Evans' Mercantile Company, with a general stock of merchandise. On the north is John Johannes' cream station, and across the alley is the *Tribune* office. The building is owned by J. S. Campbell, and the *Tribune* is owned and managed by J. H. Bahne & Son. The *Tribune* is an old and well established paper. Formerly it was all things to all men. At present it is Democratic in politics, edited by a life-long Republican and well edited. Few old-time Republicans could handle Democratic issues so well and with such apparent sincerity. Across the street, on the corner, is A. Morton, with his garage.

Around the corner south, and in the same building as the Sibley State Bank, is the Iowa Investment Company, managed by T. S. Redmond and A. C. Winterfield. In the next building south is the Fitzsimmons pool hall, lunch counter and cigar stands. Across the alley farther south is the Arend block, in the north room of which is the saloon of W. H. Peterson, and in the south room a quick-meal restaurant and lunch counter. On the next block south is the big feed barn, where seventy to eighty teams can drive in and be cared for at any time of the day or night. Crossing to the east side of the street is found the three-story Windsor hotel, owned and conducted by C. A. Windsor. Next north is the Joe Gill livery barn, converted into a livery and auto garage, conducted by Mr. Wachtel. South from the Grohman block is George Marshall's blacksmith and auto repair shop.

On the next block south is Frank Cram, the county bridge builder and house mover, and across the street west is John Werkheiser's blacksmith and

wagon repair shop, and near by is the Sibley creamery, and farmers' elevator, which handles grain, coal and feed. Farther north, on the Omaha side track, are the stock yards, followed by the L. B. Spracher grain elevator and coal sheds. Still farther north is the Brown elevator, now owned by Spracher & Wheeler. East of this is the Shell Lumber Company. Mr. Shell, the senior member of this firm, was one of the first lumber merchants of Sibley, having been here continuously for over forty years. North of the Shell Lumber Company is the Lampert Lumber Company. To the east, on North street and the alley, is W. L. Mitchell, with farm implements, buggies and farm wagons. On the same block is Mrs. Gardner's millinery store.

In many of the two-story buildings are offices occupied by men of various professions. The lawyers are mentioned in the chapter on the legal fraternity and the doctors in the medical chapter. Dr. M. M. Trainer has an office in Central block and Dr. J. H. Harvey holds forth in the Barclay block. The late W. J. Miller, justice of the peace and general broker, also had his office in the Barclay block. W. W. Turnbull, land agent, has his office in the *Gazette* building. Mr. Hunt has a blacksmith shop across the street from the Central block.

The Sibley Cement Works, owned principally by the Shell Lumber Company and managed by Charles Anderson, is located in East Sibley, and is doing an extensive business, employing a number of men the year round. The carpenters and builders are W. H. Suter, Edward Brand, Andrew Culver, Frank Gross and Mr. Henthorn. The painters and decorators are Elmer Stamm, S. A. Brand and William Pittman. Sanders & Lutterman own and operate the Rome Steam Laundry. Ira Fox owns and operates the Sibley dray line. C. B. Morrison has recently started another dray line. W. B. Winney is constable and conducts a livery stable and occupies a section of the big feed barn. William Schroeder has a team of horses and an automobile for livery. Robert Dove runs an automobile as a livery.

The city has a sewerage system, gas for lighting, water works, and has recently voted, by a large majority, to install an electric lighting system. The city has a town hall, in which is a lockup for the disorderlies, as well as the fire fighting apparatus. The city sustains a free public library, well equipped with books. The building is commodious and was donated by the Grand Army of the Republic post. The Sibley Hospital is located at the northeast part of town and is under the management and control of Dr. F. S. Hough, and receives considerable patronage. Mrs. Julia McCollm is the head nurse in the hospital.



VIEWS IN AND ABOUT ASHTOX.

The present city officers are as follows: George F. Dietrick, mayor; C. W. Brown, C. E. Parker, Henry Pulscher, E. M. Taylor and W. T. Stiener, councilmen; Oscar Meyers, clerk; Albert Romey, assessor. John Worden, a veteran of the Civil War, is marshal, and Albert Dittoo is night watchman. W. H. Chase is street commissioner.

ASHTON.

The land department of the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad Company laid out the town of Ashton in 1872. It was first called St. Gilman, but in 1882 the name was changed to Ashton. The town has a fine location on the west side of Otter creek. The ground gradually rises until it reaches quite an elevation, on top of which stands the large Roman Catholic church and school. Ashton is a thrifty town surrounded by territory that for productive soil is unexcelled in the state. There are no more thrifty class of farmers anywhere than those tributary to the town of Ashton.

The first building placed on the town site was moved there by T. J. Shaw and still stands and is used as a pool room and lunch counter. Mr. Shaw first erected this store building on section 32, in Gilman township, before the town of Ashton was laid out. Mr. Shaw left Osceola county in 1888 and moved to Oregon, where he is reported to have died a few years ago. The next building to be erected was a warehouse in 1873 by Brown & Roundsville. Then followed a blacksmith shop, run by Charles Miller, who sold to John Lee, and in 1878 Lee sold to I. B. Lucas, who continued the business about as long as he was able to work. Mr. Lucas was always a prominent man and took great interest in all public affairs until the time of his death. Soon another store followed, then a milliner store and an ever-present saloon. Then followed the grasshopper scourge, when all business at Ashton gradually dwindled away. The storekeepers sold what they could and silently drifted away. The hotel man had no customers, the saloonkeeper no patrons, millinery goods were not in demand and no grain came to market; stagnation was complete.

J. D. Billings was the first justice of the peace and one of the first school officers. He later moved to Sheldon. His daughter, Mary, was the first child born in the town.

In 1883 Nick Boor moved to town and opened up a grain, coal and lumber business. About the same time A. and G. W. Patterson (father and son) came and brought some money, which they commenced to loan. This loan business developed into the Bank of Ashton, which was always a help

to the town. A. Patterson is now dead and G. W. Patterson is in Worthington, Minnesota. From this time the town has continued to grow and prosper, until now it is thrifty and prosperous.

The Ashton State Bank, with W. L. Benjamin as president and principal stockholder, and R. M. Yappen as cashier, has thirty-five thousand dollars paid-up capital and is doing a safe and profitable business. It is one of the sound financial institutions of the county. Among the commercial and mercantile establishments are Nick Klees, harness shop; Angie Melcher, milliner shop; Frank Holmes, meat market; Aykens & DeBoer, general merchandise; Dries & Krogman, implements; Simeon Miller, cream, poultry and junk, and S. J. Gallagher, garage and auto livery. F. J. Gallagher is the dentist and J. M. Cadwallader is the only physician and surgeon. The Hotel Ashton is managed by Mr. Adams. This hotel has had a hard experience, there being scarcely patronage enough to maintain as good a house as is demanded. Mr. Adams is striving to keep a house that will meet the requirements and it is hoped by the inhabitants of the town that it may prove a financial success. J. H. Carmichael, druggist and pharmacist, is one of the substantial men of the town. Jake Keul runs a pool hall and billiard parlor. George Bathen is a merchant. E. A. Balzell operates a barber shop. The moving picture industry has a room on the main street. A new brick block is occupied by Ed. Gaster, postmaster and a meat market. The grains and coal business is conducted by A. Streit. Val Dries is the stock buyer. North of the depot is the Farmers Elevator, managed by R. C. Yappen. John Jackley has a garage and auto livery. John Johannes has a hardware store. Winchell & Hoffman run a pool hall and lunch counter. Frank Jackley, a general store. Charles Seivert has a furniture store, and Anton Hintgen a clothing store. William M. Busch is the rural mail carrier. John DeGroot and Elmer DeVries are draymen. Gustavus Ehlers conducts the cream station. There is also the usual number of masons, painters and paper hangers.

The public schools and churches will be mentioned in the proper chapters.

The city officials at present are as follows: Mayor, J. E. Townsend; clerk, J. W. Clark; councilmen, W. L. Benjamin, R. M. Yappen, Joe Reis, A. Streit and Charles King; treasurer, R. C. Yappen.

HARRIS.

Soon after the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad was constructed through this county, A. W. Harris and Philip Proper bought

several acres of land and platted it into lots in 1889 and called it Harris. The railroad promptly established a station there.

D. A. W. Perkins, in his *History of Osceola County*, published 1892, says: "This is a station on the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad, on the eastern side of the county. At present it does not claim to be metropolitan, but expects some time in the future to acquire prominence as one of the towns in the county. It is well located and when the country around it becomes more settled the town will grow correspondingly. It has one general store, managed by Rufus Townsend, who is also postmaster, and the store has a good trade. M. B. Smith has a lumber yard and a harness shop. J. Ryckman runs a coal yard and John Watling is the blacksmith. The station agent is Homer Richards, and Frank P. Burley is a decorative painter. This about comprises the business interests of Harris, and no doubt the historian ten years from now will be able to make an extensive record which will come from its future growth."

This town of Harris organized a city government during the spring of 1898, with George W. Thomas as mayor and A. Reimers as clerk. Among the first councilmen were A. C. Winterfield, A. T. Winterfield and Fred Dietz, with A. W. Burley as assessor and I. Harris as city marshal. The little city now has a population of five or six hundred people, and with its large white school house, two neat churches, many comfortable homes and business houses, together with its many thrifty shade trees, makes a very attractive sight and breaks the monotony of the once treeless prairie.

The Harris Savings Bank has a substantial two-story brick building, the second story of which is used for lodge rooms. Next to the bank building stands a cement block building occupied by the telephone exchange and city barber shop. Commencing near the depot appears J. B. Wilson's livery barn and feed stable, followed by the Harris Hardware Company, owned and managed by George Wilson and Fred Geroncin. Next to that is a restaurant, operated by Fred Schladt, the real estate office of H. C. Harris, the general store of C. W. Beeler and the barber shop of Fred Lowrey. Mr. Lowrey opened a barber shop here soon after the town was started, coming from Sibley, and by thrift and industry has acquired a comfortable home and the shop in which he operates. He has the finest and best equipped barber shop in the county, thus demonstrating what steady industry will accomplish. Then follows the telephone exchange, managed by O. F. Unz, with about seventy-five town and one hundred and twenty-five rural subscribers.

The Harris Savings Bank, with G. W. Moeller as cashier, is doing a

safe banking business, writes insurance and negotiates farm loans. R. J. Robertson, a real estate dealer, has offices in the bank building. He is also an extensive land owner. He also negotiates farm loans and writes town and farm insurance. Dr. C. C. Cady is a general practitioner and has an extensive practice. A. W. Burley has a blacksmith shop and also conducts an automobile business and garage. George Bowers handles farm implements. John Burrows has a blacksmith shop. F. W. Hill, druggist and pharmacist, keeps a general stock of drugs. He also has a soda fountain and dispenses soft drinks and ice cream in season.

J. I. Dobbin is postmaster and editor of the *Harris Herald*. The meat market is conducted by Wentler Brothers. The pool room is owned by Oscar Miller, who also buys and ships stock. Mrs. S. Crichton conducts a private hotel. The hotel is now occupied by private families, there not being residences enough to furnish homes for all the people. Harris needs more houses at the present time. Henry Hentz sells automobiles and manages a garage. The Harris Mercantile Company occupies a large two-story building on the corner, with an extensive stock of general merchandise. It is managed by Patrick Mahn. H. A. Wiemir is an implement dealer. Cream station by George Wernstrum. George Wernstrum conducts a cream station and restaurant. A pool room and lunch counter are operated by John Heppler. C. A. Barnes, one of the early-day merchants, conducts a hardware business. Next is a stock of furniture by C. W. Beeler.

The Superior Lumber Company has a commodious lumber and coal yard, conducted by L. J. Hagerty. The grain elevator of Anderson & Company is under the local management of H. P. Unland. A. A. Thompson manages the Stockdale & Dietz elevator. Mr. Thompson also handles town and farm property. The Gregg & Zeeman elevator is under the management of A. C. Wettstead. The Standard Oil Company has a station here managed by George Geroesin. George Blend is a mason and F. Blais is a contractor and builder. John Forbes is a carpenter and Earl Wheeler is a painter and decorator. The Harris Creamery is doing a nice business with the surrounding farmers. That Harris is surrounded by a good farming country is evidenced by the fact that during the year of 1912 there were shipped from that station two hundred and twenty cars of grain, stock and hay.

The present city government is carefully looked after by competent officials. W. W. Smith, a retired merchant, is mayor. The present council is composed of George Geronesin, George Bauer, Fred Wentler, Henry



WEST MAIN STREET, OCHEVEDAN



A RESIDENCE STREET IN OCHEVEDAN

Hintz and A. W. Burley. L. J. Hagerty is clerk and Clint Gregory is city marshal. Thus Harris is putting on city airs with a street fair and carnival after harvest each year. Harris has two churches, Methodist Episcopal and German Lutheran, both of which are discussed in the chapter on churches.

OCHEYEDAN.

The town of Ocheyedan was started in the early fall of 1884, after the coming of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad. The first building of the town was a temporary affair for the use of James Wood while a more substantial structure was being erected. James Wood, Charles Woodworth, William Smith, Kout Brothers and L. B. Boyd were on the ground in the fall of 1884 with stores of general merchandise. During the same fall Dr. C. Teal put up a building and occupied it with a stock of drugs and at the same time practiced medicine.

Thus was the beginning of a clean and enterprising little city. It has a beautiful location on a high ridge, which affords good natural drainage. It has well graded streets, substantial brick blocks and an excellent high school. It owns its water system and has a volunteer fire department. It has fine shade trees along the streets and in the yards, beautiful lawns and as good residences as can be found in towns of larger population. It has two strong banks and several stores in brick buildings. It looks as one approaches it like a ready-made city set on a hill.

Instead of the few business houses, as in 1884, it now has the following: The Bank of Ocheyedan, under the efficient management of James Porter, president; William M. Roth, cashier, and Charles Morton, assistant cashier. It does a general banking business and negotiates farm loans. The postoffice is held by Mrs. Underwood. Mr. Underwood, who edited the *Ocheyedan Press* for many years, was postmaster until the time of his death, a few years ago, when Mrs. Underwood was appointed to take her husband's place. It is understood that J. B. Callender is to succeed Mrs. Underwood at the expiration of her term. The *Ocheyedan Press* is now managed and edited by E. E. Roland. M. S. Gole has a stock of general merchandise and millinery goods. C. A. Cook is the popular druggist and pharmacist. Albert Fritz runs a general butcher shop. Alesen Brothers are clothiers. The town has two cream stations which are well patronized by the farmers. Fred Meyers is a blacksmith. Furniture and undertaking wants are supplied by William Marshall. Mrs. L. M. Hamilton runs a racket store. Philip Cleveland has a hotel and restaurant. Metz is the barber.

Peter Graves operates a hotel and restaurant. George DeFries runs the saloon. The Harris Auto Company is managed by Stahly & Son. The Porter Company is managed by J. N. Kuntz. Slade & Shuttleworth also run a lumber yard. Mr. Slade is the local man, while Mr. Shuttleworth resides in Sibley. The Farmers Elevator Company is managed by Fred Bremmer. The F. A. Brown & Company elevator and the Gregg & Zecmer elevator are well managed concerns. The stock buyers are John Ward, Perry Harmel and A. C. Bowersock. Charles Spencer is a blacksmith. Fred Berands handles wagons, buggies and all kinds of farm implements. The livery barn, formerly managed by Mike Welsh, is now an automobile garage and under the control of the Ochevedan Auto Company, with Albert Stewart as local manager. Christ Gardner conducts a meat market. On this same side hill is found the office of Dean & Broderick, extensive land owners and dealers. In the same office is Ezra Cleveland, who has been for many years justice of the peace. Callender Brothers manage a pool hall. The McGowen Mercantile Company occupies the corner where the elder McGowen, who died a few years ago, succeeded Kout Brothers, one of the original firms. R. J. C. McGowen, the elder, was succeeded by his son, Bert McGowen, who now conducts the business in a fine two-story brick building. Chris Wassmann runs the livery and feed barn. The Ochevedan Savings Bank, after a varied experience under different managers, has settled down to a thrifty and careful banking business under the efficient management of C. R. Richards. Doctor Kinney is the only dentist of the town. C. A. Cook manages the telephone exchange. The Ochevedan Hardware Company is managed by Miller & Cobb. Hanford Produce Company has a cream station here, managed by William Noehren. Doctors R. S. Hamilton, Ely, Lass and White are the practicing physicians. S. Schmidt is the harness maker. Harly Cleveland cleans and presses clothes. J. L. Packard handles hardware. August Arends deals in boots and shoes. Mary Graves has general merchandise and farm implements. Frank Graves and daughter are the photographers. The Farmers Co-operative Creamery is managed by Frank Lintner, president of the company. Charles Timmons is a land dealer. The Ochevedan opera house is managed by the Callender Brothers. A. M. Randall handles apples direct from the Ozarks. John Armstrong and wife are carpet weavers.

Ochevedan has two rural mail routes which cover fifty-two miles and serve two hundred patrons. The graded school and several churches will be

mentioned in the school and church chapters. The present city officers are as follows: H. E. Dean, mayor; William Roth, August Arcends, Chris Timmons, C. R. Richards and Bert McGowen, councilmen; Charles Motion, clerk; C. H. Callender, assessor; T. A. Cramer, marshal.

CLOVERDALE.

This village is on the Gowrie branch of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. There are a few retired farmers living here. The school is one mile north of the village. Cloverdale is located on the south line of East Holman and the north line of Goewey township, midway between Sibley and Melvin, and is in the midst of a rich farming territory. While it is not putting on metropolitan airs it is a very good trading point. The principal interests represented are grain, lumber and merchandise. Here we find the Lampert Lumber Company, managed by George B. Brunson, which handles all kinds of building material, coal, wire fence and gates. The Davenport Elevator Company handles grain, with William Schlicht as manager. Stockdale & Dietz Company, grain buyers, are represented by Fred Hankins as agent. Peter Sherbondy is a general merchant and serves as postmaster.

ALLENDORF.

Allendorf is a station on the main line of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad, midway between Sibley and Osceydan. It makes a very convenient place from which to ship stock and grain for that neighborhood. Farmers can get nearly anything they need at this town. There is one bank, owned principally by George W. Schee of Primghar. Clyde Wheaton is cashier and local manager. There is one general store, owned by McGowen Company, and managed by Ray Williams, who is also postmaster. There is one lumber yard, owned by Shell Lumber Company of Sibley, and managed by C. Shettleworth. There are two grain elevators, one of which is owned and managed by I. Broderick, and the other by Calender Brothers, of Osceydan. D. D. Garberson handles agricultural implements. The blacksmith is C. H. Rickabaugh, who also runs a threshing machine in season. Rev. O. J. Conway is pastor of the United Evangelical church. Peter Sand is the station agent. George Protexter owns the telephone line and Charley Protexter is the local manager.

MELVIN.

In the year 1900 the Gowrie branch of the Rock Island Railroad was finished to Sibley and the town of Melvin was platted and buildings began to go up on every hand. Now it is a busy little city, with grain elevators, stores, churches and a graded school. The streets are nicely graded and main street is heavily graveled. Melvin is situated in the midst of as fine an agricultural section as there is in the state and it gives that part of the county a good market.

The following are the principal business interests of the town: The railroad depot is on the eastern outskirts and H. I. Ramsey is the station agent. The Davenport Elevator Company is managed by Edward Jacobs. The Farmers Elevator Company, recently reorganized, is managed by W. H. Hubbard and a board of directors. F. W. Year & Company buys and handles live stock. The Royal Lumber Company has extensive lumber yard and sheds. Their lumber is nearly all under cover. One of the prominent buildings is the Woodmen's hall, which also serves as a public hall. The lodge rooms are in the second story. This building was one of the first buildings in the town, having been originally erected by Peter Shaw, of Sibley. He conducted a pool hall and lunch counter eight years in the first story, while he occupied the second story as a residence. The Melvin Telephone Company is owned and operated by H. M. Quiggle, who is a son of the old homesteader, Frank Quiggle. This line has about two hundred and sixty patrons. The Melvin hotel is managed by Mrs. Frederica Zack. The German Savings Bank is in charge of George A. Schee, as cashier. The principal backer of this bank is George W. Schee, of Pringhar. A. C. Bocke's hardware store and Joseph B. Bohlen's general store are flourishing establishments. George Kraft has the postoffice in his general store room. From this postoffice one rural route is run, covering twenty-eight miles and accommodating over one hundred patrons. L. A. Shields has a restaurant and lunch counter. Imhoff & Riecks have a lunch counter and pool hall. The First National Bank has George A. Romey as cashier and Arthur Evans as assistant cashier. The president of the bank is J. Fred Mattert, and vice-president, W. T. Steiner, both of Sibley. This bank is a strong institution and doing an extensive business. H. W. Jobes has the furniture and drug store and handles furniture, carpets, rugs, drugs, oils and paints. The meat market is conducted by C. D. Koontz. The "Poor Man's Theater" is conducted by Jobes & Graves. W. A. Fairbrother is a contractor and

builder. Knapp & Banghert conduct a general store and carry a large stock for a town of this size. A. F. Buckholtz has a full line of farm implements and hardware. The Watchel Auto Company operates in Melvin and Sibley, and is managed by Joseph Wachtel. The barber shop is owned and operated by Frank Arrasmith. D. C. Steelsmith is the doctor and at present the representative of this county in the General Assembly. There is a garage, managed by Graves Brothers, who also handle agricultural implements. A. G. Myrell is the blacksmith. A saloon is run by Henry E. Massmann. The Melvin *Argus*, a local and Democratic newspaper, is owned and edited by Charles W. Scott. The Hanford Creamery Company has a cream station here managed by Lyle Daggett. The town owns a building used for a town hall, which also contains the lighting plant and fire apparatus. The city feed barn is a large cement block structure. It can accommodate two hundred teams and is managed by H. D. Year. The town has three churches, the German Lutheran, Rev. Alberts, pastor; the Methodist Episcopal, with J. A. Smith as pastor, and a German Reform church. The Hollanders hold services but as yet have no building. The farmers own a successful creamery. A. L. Blackmore and Louis Frederking are painters and paper hangers. John Gontges and Rudolph Hokuf run city drays. The city officers of Melvin are as follows: H. J. Ramsey, mayor; Arthur M. Evans, clerk; George Kraft, George A. Romey, P. J. Knapp, C. D. Koontz, W. F. Arrasmith, councilmen; Henry Bangert, assessor; Frank Knapp, marshal.

CHAPTER IV.

RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF OSCEOLA COUNTY.

THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SIBLEY.

The first settlers began coming into this county in the spring of 1871. Slight improvements were made during the summer and most of the settlers returned to their former homes in the fall to avoid the long winter under poorly prepared conditions.

The first preaching service was held in the house of Elbridge Morrison, one and one-half miles west of Sibley, by Rev. S. Aldrich, who was making this county his home at that time. Rev. Ira Brashears, a one-armed veteran of the Civil War, was assigned to the missionary field of O'Brien, Sioux, Lyon and Osceola counties. Rev. John Webb, who was in charge of the work in Spirit Lake, was directed to divide his time with Sibley. Accordingly on the 19th day of April, 1872, Reverend Webb and Reverend Aldrich met the people at the house of A. M. Culver, one and one-half miles south of Sibley. After preaching by Rev. Webb, a class of nineteen members was organized, consisting of the following persons: Robert Stamm (leader), Anna Stamm, John L. Robinson, Sarah Robinson, Ella J. Robinson, A. H. Miller, Almira Miller, L. C. Chamberlain, M. J. Campbell, Etta B. Campbell, Annice Webb, William Anderson, Mrs. C. M. Anderson, D. L. Riley, Mrs. E. A. Riley, Leucila Bean, Elbridge Morrison, Huldah Morrison and Rev. S. Aldrich, local elder.

The first quarterly conference was held in Sibley, October 18, 1872. At the first session of the Northwest Iowa conference, held at Ft. Dodge, Iowa, September 18, 1872, Rev. John Webb was assigned to the Sibley mission, which was made to consist of Osceola county alone. The first board of trustees was appointed in the following October. In May, 1873, D. L. Riley, John L. Robinson and the pastor, Rev. John Webb, were authorized to procure subscriptions for the erection of a house of worship. By the close of the conference year a substantial frame building was erected, thirty-two by fifty feet in size, with no indebtedness except a loan of three hundred dollars.

obtained from the church extension society. At a general conference, held at Yankton, Dakota, the Rev. Ira Brashears was assigned to the Sibley charge. Those were lean years, both for the ministers and the people, but the church continued to grow and develop. Rev. Brashears remained two years and proved to be a tireless worker. He was followed by Rev. W. W. Mallory, who also was a hard worker, strong on revivals and could give the genuine old-fashioned Methodist shout with a vim. He also was a great lover of horses, and if there was anything he loved as well as a protracted meeting, it was a horse trade. The last heard of him he was successfully practicing medicine in the Niobrara country in Nebraska. He remained here several years and did good work.

The following minister was Rev. J. W. Rigby, who remained but one year. Old residents of Sibley will remember Rev. Rigby as a big, red-faced, burly Englishman, who, when walking on the street with his wife, forged several feet ahead, while the poor little woman trotted along, receiving no more attention than as if she had not been in existence. As illustrative of his character, it may be stated that when he and his wife entered a room, he would stop inside the door and take a careful survey, and when he discovered the most comfortable seat, would proceed to occupy it regardless of how many ladies might have to stand. Then came the following pastors in the order named: John W. Lothian, S. P. Marsh, F. A. Burdick, W. F. Brown, J. J. Gardner, C. B. Winter, W. W. Brown, C. Artman, G. H. Kennedy, E. H. Smith, F. E. Day, Joel A. Smith, W. A. Black, G. W. Barnes, W. C. Wasser, A. A. Randall, Herbert Clegg, F. W. Keagy and the present pastor, F. F. Travis.

In the year of 1896 the original church was sold to the German Presbyterian society and a new church was erected on the same site. The church now owns fine property, consisting of two lots, a large modern church and a comfortable parsonage, the value of which is about eighteen thousand dollars. Numerically, it is the strongest Protestant church in the county. The officers of the church and its auxiliaries are as follows: F. F. Travis, pastor; trustees—Levi Shell, C. E. Hanchett, O. B. Harding, O. A. Metz, W. F. Truckenmiller, C. L. Strickler and H. L. Wheeler; stewards—Levi Shell, C. E. Hanchett, Will Thomas, C. C. Truckenmiller, W. T. Steiner, J. S. Campbell, W. W. Overholser, L. H. Morse, Mrs. O. J. Clark, Mrs. James Nisbet and Mrs. J. S. Campbell; treasurer—Will Thomas; class leaders—Robert Smith, J. S. Campbell, H. G. Doolittle, O. J. Clark and Mrs. J. C. Broughton. Mrs. J. M. Tregilgus and Mrs. J. C. Broughton, president and

secretary, respectively, of Ladies' Aid Society. C. E. Hanchett is superintendent of the Sunday school and Glen Glazier is secretary.

The church is in excellent financial condition, three thousand two hundred seventy-one dollars and forty-seven cents having been paid during the last conference year for the support of the church and its benevolences.

THE MELVIN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

Beginning in September, 1910, with services morning and evening in the school house, the Methodist Episcopal meetings at Melvin were so well attended, it soon became evident that a larger room was needed to accommodate the growing congregation. The German Reform church people kindly threw open their church doors for the Methodist Episcopal services until they could erect a building of their own. On the twentieth day of November, 1910, twenty-one people of Melvin and vicinity united to form a Methodist Episcopal church and on January 6, 1911, a church meeting was called, when it was decided to organize immediately a committee to solicit funds for a church building at Melvin. It soon became evident that it would be safe to proceed with a building. J. A. Smith, A. Tadd, W. V. Wilcox, G. A. Romey and L. P. Gontjes were appointed as a building committee. John Olson, of Rock Rapids, was given the contract for the basement, while W. A. Fairbrother was assigned the contract for the frame structure.

On June 29, 1911, five men with teams, spades and scrapers began the excavation for the basement while three others hauled sand. A large amount of work was donated by friends, thus saving considerable expense. The building committee did its work so thoroughly that on December 17, 1911, the church was ready for dedication with only about nine hundred dollars to raise to free it from debt. The cost of the building was about four thousand five hundred dollars. The following amounts had been raised: General subscription, \$2,320; the Ladies Aid Society, \$600; the Methodist Episcopal church extension fund, \$300; cash on hand and pledged, \$400; total, \$3,620. On dedication day the morning service was conducted by Doctor Craig, president of Morningside College. There was a musical program in the afternoon at which Rev. F. F. Travis gave a short address. At this afternoon service a quartette of singers from Sibley, consisting of Mrs. Harvey, Miss Dinsmore, Mr. Meyers and Mr. Reagan, gave some fine music. Rev. Dr. J. L. Gillies, district superintendent, took charge of the evening service, which was given over largely to raising the balance of the money necessary to free the church from debt. Dr. Gillies proved to be a good



MRS. FRANK HESS, MRS. EMIL FOTT, MRS. WILLIAM
TURNBULL, MASTER EMIL TURNBULL



general and the required amount was pledged. A very interesting feature was reserved for the closing meeting of the day. Rev. John A. Smith and Louisa E. Coats, in the presence of the large congregation, in a solemn and impressive manner, were made husband and wife. Reverend Doctor Gillies officiating.

In the fall of 1912, Rev. J. A. Smith was stationed at Royal, Iowa, and Rev. Z. V. Arthur was appointed to take his place at Melvin. Owing to Mrs. Arthur's illness, both pastor and wife left Melvin in May, 1913, for Ohio. For several months thereafter the church was without a pastor and then Rev. A. Dyson was appointed to fill out the year. At the conference held at Webster City, Iowa, October, 1913, Rev. J. A. Smith was appointed to take up the work at Melvin and he is still in active charge. The organization of the church includes a Sunday school, numbering seventy scholars; an efficient Ladies Aid Society of thirty-seven members; senior and junior boys' clubs and a Young People's Christian Endeavor Society. The membership of the church is constantly increasing and the outlook of the future is hopeful. A commodious parsonage is to be erected during this summer of 1914.

ASHTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The Methodist Episcopal church at Ashton dates from the winter of 1881-82. The presiding elder and the pastor, W. A. Richards, decided to ask for subscriptions for a building, and sufficient money was raised to warrant the trustees to go forward with the work of building. They secured from the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad company a grant of the two lots on which the church and parsonage now stand. During the pastorate of W. A. Richards the church was put under roof. In the fall of 1882 Rev. M. B. Keister became pastor and under his pastorate the church was completed and a parsonage erected. The church was dedicated on Sunday, July 8, 1883. The Rev. F. Miller, of the Upper Iowa conference, preached the dedicatory sermon. The parsonage was completed and occupied on July 4, 1883. The church building cost two thousand dollars. Lyman Hill was the contractor and builder. For almost thirty years the town of Ashton and immediate community were able to maintain a resident minister. The following pastors have been appointed at different times by the conferences to Ashton charge: W. A. Richards, M. B. Keister, F. Ashpole, C. W. Clifton, J. W. Lent, S. C. Olds, H. Allertson, F. L. Buckwalter, J. M. Tibbets, G. A. Platte, E. F. Figtley, C. L. Howarth, Earl Hanna, C. E.

Bowen, S. L. Edley, C. Yotlee, C. E. McKelvey. For many years the Goe-wey church was ministered to by the Ashton pastor until it became attached to the Melvin charge. Then the church at George was visited on alternate Sundays by the Ashton minister. Owing to many removals of Protestant families from Ashton and vicinity the church was unable to support a resident pastor. Accordingly in the conference years of 1912 and 1913 it was supplied by Rev. W. H. Montgomery, of Sioux City. The conference of 1913, held at Webster City, Iowa, attached Ashton to the Melvin charge, the Rev. J. A. Smith being appointed to the work.

A Sunday school is maintained and meets every Sunday afternoon at two and the preaching service follows at three. The Ladies' Aid Society is well organized and does excellent work in helping to maintain the church.

THE FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF HARRIS.

This church was dedicated July 19, 1899, by Dr. Seely S. Lewis, now Bishop Lewis. The building and lots cost three thousand dollars, the whole amount being donated. Rev. D. M. Simpson was the first pastor, and the official board consisted of the following: Messrs. Hamilton, Mothorp, Winterfield, Forbes and others of whom there is no record at the present time.

Rev. Thomas Burley had charge for one year and was followed by Rev. Echart, who served the charge very acceptably for two years. The next year Rev. Whiting was sent and served as pastor two years. Then came Rev. Peterson, who served with success for two years and was followed by Rev. Charles Richards, who also remained two years. Rev. Richards left Harris to attend school at Garret and was succeeded by Rev. Tower, who came at conference time and stayed about six months. He then returned to the East and the vacancy was filled by Rev. Moody. At the expiration of Rev. Moody's term, Rev. W. N. Bump, the present pastor, was sent to Harris. During the last year a much needed shed for horses has been completed, and a basement is now being planned.

The church has made a steady growth during these years. The membership numbers about ninety. The Sunday school has an enrollment of about two hundred with an average attendance of about one hundred. The church is progressive and is ministering to a large community.

The present official board consists of the following persons: Board of stewards, R. J. Robertson, Dr. C. C. Cady, J. E. Melick, A. T. Winterfield, Charles Gilson and Wilson Forbes. The recording steward and secretary is A. C. Wettasted. The board of trustees is composed of L. J. Hagerty,

C. A. Barnes, R. J. Robertson, C. C. Cady, A. T. Winterfield, R. Halverson, Arthur Haminton, J. E. Melick, Charles Gibson, J. E. Renn and Robert Jordan. The president of the Ladies' Aid Society is Mrs. George Baur. The Sunday school superintendent is Charles Gibson, assisted by Will McCauley. The secretary and treasurer is Adolph Wettestad.

The church is growing in importance, and receives the loyal support of many of the leading citizens of the town. The church building is centrally located and adds much to the attractive appearance of the town.

THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF OCHEYEDAN.

This church was organized in 1872 or 1873 by Rev. John Webb, the first Methodist minister of Sibley. The first records have not been kept, so the first officers and ministers can not be enumerated. A fire occurred in the church at one time and the early records are supposed to have been destroyed. It can be recorded, however, that since its organization it has progressed steadily and has always been a leading factor for good in the eastern part of the county. Tradition has it that the first inception of church matters was at a sewing circle in the eastern part of the county, where various matters, wise and otherwise, are discussed. Among other things talked of at this sewing circle was the desirability of religious services and, from that beginning, there resulted the organization and the subsequent erection of the Walnut Grove church, which later was moved to Ocheyedan. It has since been enlarged until the present commodious church building is the result. The society also has a comfortable parsonage.

The present pastor is the Rev. J. G. Watterman. The trustees are F. J. Boyd, W. E. Ely, W. M. Roth, Ruse Davis and Frank Cole. The stewards are Charles Morton, recording, W. F. Hunt, Mrs. E. A. Underhill, John VanCleve and A. G. Fletcher. The church has an efficient Ladies' Aid Society and a prosperous Sunday school of about one hundred and sixty members.

ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OCHEYEDAN.

This church was organized and a parsonage built in 1901. The presiding pastor is E. Fiene, who is also principal of the parochial school. The trustees are C. E. Miller, A. Menkens and V. Walther. The vestrymen are John Rusche, Herman Wassmann and August Arends and C. E. Miller. Mr. Miller

is president and Mr. Arends secretary. The church has twenty-two voting members and one hundred and ten communicating members.

The preaching is in German every Sabbath with the exception that once in every two months the sermon is in English. The pastor is the principal and teacher of the school of about twenty-five pupils. The course of study includes the Lutheran religion, bible history, German language and common school branches. The church and school are supported by subscription.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AT SIBLEY.

The first Congregational church of Sibley was organized October 8, 1872, in the public school building of Sibley, a small frame structure that stood on the corner now occupied by the fine residence of Frank Mackinson. The year following the organization of the church it was admitted to membership in the Sioux Association of Congregational Churches, which admission to the district association made the church a member of the Iowa State Association of Congregational Churches.

Settlement preceded the construction of the first railway in Osceola county, the Sioux City & St. Paul road, now a part of the Omaha line of the Northwestern system. At the organization of the church most of the ten members lived east of Ocheyedan creek. Those members were Rev. Benj. A. Dean and Ellen P. Dean, his wife, Jennie Keeler, a young lady residing in Mr. Dean's family, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Frick and Mr. and Mrs. James Sutton. At or near Sibley there were three members, Mrs. Rosanna Miller, the mother of W. J. Miller and J. Q. Miller, Harvey Bristow and J. F. Glover. At the organization of the church, Rev. John R. Upton, of Lakeville, Dickinson county, Iowa, was moderator. The home missionary on the field and first pastor of the new church was Rev. Benj. A. Dean. Mr. Upton and Mr. Dean were both graduates of Amherst College, as well as graduates of eastern theological seminaries. Mr. Dean and wife were tireless workers and others soon joined the church and congregation.

In the list of pioneer settlers who became identified with the church were Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Bailey, F. M. Robinson and Mrs. H. L. Baker, Mrs. W. J. Miller, the Green and Mandeville families, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Westcott, Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Cram, Mr. and Mrs. O. Dunton, Mr. and Mrs. David Wood, L. G. Ireland and family, Captain R. J. and Mrs. Chase and Captain Chase's sister Mrs. Bellows and daughter Ida.

Notwithstanding the drawbacks of a new country, the pastor, church and

congregation worked so efficiently that in 1875 the neat and durable church building opposite the northeast corner of the court house square, now the German Lutheran church building, was erected. Captain D. L. Riley, one of the leading pioneer business men of the new town, was the contractor and builder of the church, which was so well constructed that now, nearly forty years after its erection, it is still a substantial building. The new and much larger church opposite the southeast corner of the court house square was erected in 1896 during the pastorate of Rev. Charles H. Seccombe. In the new church on the north side is a fine memorial window to the memory of Mrs. Ellen P. Dean, the wife of the first pastor. Rev. Mr. Dean held one of the long pastorates of the church, remaining with the Sibley church until 1877. He had calls to other churches, but was attached to the work at Sibley and rendered it five years of efficient ministerial and pastoral work.

The Congregational Year Book of 1913, containing church statistics for 1912, has Rev. Benjamin A. Dean, located at Hildreth, Nebraska, in charge of the Congregational church there. Mr. Dean remarried and his present wife is also a regular minister of the Congregational church. Mr. Dean was ordained in 1866 and has been in the ministry nearly fifty years. Rev. D. J. Baldwin succeeded Mr. Dean in the pastorate. He was a good preacher but was troubled with the infirmity of deafness. He died in California in 1910. The next minister was Rev. Thomas Pell, an Englishman and a resident of Osceola county before he became the minister. He was a faithful minister but labored under the difficulty of a crippled ankle. He was a tall man with some resemblance to Abraham Lincoln. His death occurred in 1896. In 1884 Rev. J. D. Whitelaw came from the theological seminary to take charge as pastor. He was well liked and did good work. His present pastorate is at Fox Lake, Wisconsin. Following Mr. Whitelaw was Rev. Willis W. Mead, who resigned in 1886 to go as missionary to Turkey. Rev. Eugene L. Sherman succeeded Mr. Mead, becoming pastor in 1887. After a short pastorate he resigned to accept the pastorate of the Mayflower Congregational church of Sioux City. Mr. Sherman died in 1896. Following Mr. Sherman was Rev. J. C. Stoddard, who held one of the longer pastorates. He is now pastor at Warland, Wyoming. Mr. Stoddard was a good preacher, and helped the church to increased membership. He resigned to accept charge of the home missionary church at Primghar.

The first parsonage of the Congregational church was on lot 1, block 4. Chase's addition, at the southwest corner of the public park. The second parsonage occupied two lots on the southeast corner of block 9. Chase's addition, and is now the German Presbyterian church parsonage. The present

parsonage is on the same block with the church and east of the church building. Following Mr. Stoddard's pastorate came a short pastorate by Rev. Fred L. Hanscom, who resigned in 1892. Mr. Hanscom is now pastor of the Pittsfield, Illinois, Congregational church. Rev. P. B. West, a Civil War veteran, was the next pastor and he proved a faithful worker. His pastorate closed about 1894. Mr. West served a term as chaplain of the Iowa department of the Grand Army of the Republic. He is now residing on a farm at Herrick, South Dakota. Mr. West was succeeded by Rev. John Gray. He was a native of England, a well educated man and sincere in his effort to help the church. He died in December, 1908, at Naper, Nebraska. Following Mr. Gray came the Rev. Charles Secombe, who became pastor in 1896. The church went forward under his pastorate and the fine new church was built and dedicated while he was pastor. He was a strong man in the ministry and has held important pastorates. He is at present residing in Los Angeles, California. Rev. A. Craig Bowdish succeeded Mr. Secombe. He had a three years' successful pastorate here. He and his wife are now doing missionary work at Sunnyside, Poia Makowao mission, Hawaii. Following Mr. Bowdish came the three years' pastorate of Rev. W. Howard Moore, pastor of Richmond Congregational church near Chicago. The next pastor was Rev. William A. Schimley, who served three years, a forceful speaker, who went from here to the Congregational church of Ashland, Oregon, where he is the present pastor. He was succeeded by the Rev. F. E. Henry, a faithful worker, who served two years, and resigned and took up home missionary work at Plentywood, Montana. Following the removal of Mr. Henry came the present pastor, Rev. C. M. Westlake, who began his pastorate November 1, 1913. He is a strong man, well equipped by education, experience and travel for the manifold duties of the pastoral office.

The last year-book gives the church membership as two hundred and ten; of these seventy-five are males and one hundred and thirty-five females. Of the members thirty-five are absent. At the last roll call and banquet there were responses from about eight states. The Congregational families number about one hundred and twenty-five. During the last year Dr. F. P. Winkler has been the efficient superintendent of the Sunday school. Inez Reynolds is the church pianist. A sister of Miss Reynolds, Mrs. Mary Reynolds Newell, went as a missionary to China, and with her husband, Prof. George M. Newell, is engaged in educational work. For many years J. Fred Mattern, cashier of the First National Bank of Sibley, has been the efficient church treasurer. The present church deacons are C. P. Reynolds and W. P. Dinsmore. The third deacon, Mr. C. R. Mandeville, recently removed to Kansas.

The church property is valued at over eighteen thousand dollars. The pastor's salary is twelve hundred dollars, in addition to which he is furnished with a parsonage. The Ladies' Aid Society is a large and highly efficient society, and is a great help to the church. The Sunday school numbers one hundred and twenty-five or more, while the Christian Endeavor Society numbers thirty-five. The church and its auxiliaries were never in better condition for successful work.

THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SIBLEY.

Before the first Congregational church of Sibley built its new church in 1896, it sold its old building, which was still a good substantial structure, but not large enough, to the German Lutherans of Sibley and vicinity. Rev. O. C. Biermann, of Viola township, who officiates also in Viola township and at Harris, serves the three congregations. He lives in Viola township where the church owns a manse. The Lutheran church of Sibley is in a flourishing condition.

THE OCHEYEDAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

The Ocheyedan Congregational church was organized in 1888 and the present church building erected in 1893. Thomas Pell, L. R. Fitch, D. Donaldson, W. A. Brintnall, J. L. Brown, J. B. Chase, W. B. Jackson, E. T. Briggs, R. W. Coats, J. F. Glover, F. R. Rawlins and George E. Brown have been the pastors, serving in the order named. The pastorates have averaged about two years in length. Mrs. A. V. Randall, Mrs. E. O. Manville, Mr. and Mrs. John Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. VanCleve and Mr. C. L. Buchman have been leading members for many years. Mrs. Belle Randall is the church clerk, and Mrs. Sarah Putney is the church treasurer. The church reports fifty-three members. Of these fourteen are males and thirty-nine females. Of the members, six are reported absent. The present Sunday school superintendent is Mrs. Ida Allard. The members of the Sunday school number seventy. The church property is worth about two thousand dollars.

The church at present receives assistance from the Iowa Home Missionary Society. It is also assisted by a highly efficient Ladies' Aid Society called the Busy Bees. Bernice and Beatrice Manville, the twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Manville, are fine musicians and are of much help in the choir.

The church has had regular services, with little interruption, since the date of organization. On several occasions Rev. W. A. Schwinley, while pastor in Sibley, preached revival sermons in the Ocheyedan church. Of the newer members of the church who were good helpers, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bremner, both of whom are now dead, deserve special mention. Of the older members the late Mrs. C. L. Buchman was the church treasurer for many years. The church is without a parsonage and it is hard to rent a suitable dwelling for one, but the church is not at all discouraged. Having survived about a quarter of a century, it has learned to be patient and overcome obstacles. It feels it has a mission in Ocheyedan and that it is a help to the community. With the further development of the fine country round about and the growth of the town the church will undoubtedly share in the general prosperity.

FIRST GERMAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SIBLEY.

About a quarter of a century ago Germans from eastern United States began to move westward and settle in the northwestern portion of Iowa and South Dakota. Among these early settlers missionaries were very active. Rev. J. E. Drake, the official missionary, Rev. H. Wortmann and other local pastors of the German Presbyterian church, through their unabating activity and the Grace of God, were instrumental in organizing churches among the German speaking people of the Northwest.

During the year of 1892 missionary work was begun among the Germans of Sibley and vicinity. At first preaching services were conducted in the court house; later in the Baptist and the old St. John's Episcopal church. In 1896 the present church building was purchased from the Methodists. Two lots, 11 and 12, in block 30, in the town of Sibley, were secured from the Iowa Land Company on which the present church building is situated. The congregation also owns a seven-room manse, situated on lots 5 and 6, in block 9, in Chase's addition to Sibley. The entire valuation of the church property is eight thousand dollars, free from debt. Last year the entire church building was equipped with a spacious basement and a new heating system. The church on the inside has lately been decorated by the Ladies' Aid Society.

After the organization had been effected in 1895 and incorporated under the laws of Iowa, it was received under the care of the presbytery of Sioux City and synod of Iowa, and so remained until it was transferred to the presbytery of George and the German synod of the Northwest. Names

prominent among the charter members are: Oscar Schmidt, Krine Deuth, Cornelius Jensen, Min Schouhoven and Claas Huffmann. Ruling elders, deacons and a board of trustees constitute the official staff. Rev. Aiken Kruse served as the first local pastor of the newly organized church. He was succeeded by Rev. L. Figge, Rev. E. B. Grancko and Rev. J. Schaelde. For a while during the year of 1904 the church was without a pastor. Missionary E. Boell had charge of the field for a while until Rev. A. Proett became its regular pastor in the year 1905. About thirty new members were added to the church during his pastorate of five years. In the spring of 1910 the present pastor, Rev. Oltman B. Oltmans, was called and is still serving the church.

The church now has a total membership of forty communicants. About fifty families are associated with the church, representing about three hundred individuals. The Ladies' Aid, missionary societies and the Sunday school are the only organizations connected with the church. The Ladies' Aid Society has a membership of eighteen and the Sunday school an enrollment of eighty members.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SIBLEY.

As early as 1874, a few of the Baptists of Sibley met in the furniture store of Mr. Mitchell, in what was known as the Shell building. This stood where Dr. Wilder's house now stands. No permanent organization was made at that time but the subject was discussed and in February, 1876, a meeting was called at the Congregational church. Ten persons responded to this invitation and passed a resolution to organize as the First Baptist church of Sibley. Bro. T. O. Wilbern was elected as the first deacon and Mary Caldwell as the first clerk. A list of all known Baptists in the county was made at this meeting and the number reported as twenty-five. At a business meeting April 1, 1876, it was voted to invite the Baptist minister of Spirit Lake, Rev. J. L. Coppoc, to preach in Sibley once each month. Two more deacons were appointed, Bro. Mitchell and Bro. Churchill, and two trustees outside of the church membership, C. I. Hill and J. F. Glover. The Cherokee church showed interest in our welfare at this time by presenting a communion set. At the June covenant meeting arrangements were made to call a council to meet with the church the last Saturday in July to consider the propriety of being recognized as a regular Baptist church. This council was held July 29, 1876, and the following churches were represented by delegates: Spirit Lake, Sioux Falls, Cherokee and Iowa City. The follow-

ing day resolutions to recognize the church were adopted, a recognition sermon was preached by Rev. Coppoe and the right hand of fellowship was extended to the church. The list of members at that time numbered about eighteen and others were added within a short time after this meeting. Thus was perfected the organization that has gone steadily onward, sometimes in the gloom of discouragement, and sometimes in the sunshine of success, but always, as the church believes, under the care and approval of God.

For some time after the council meeting the subject of calling a pastor was discussed, but on account of the repeated failure of crops through grasshopper times, it was postponed until the winter of 1878-79, when Rev. Judson came to work in this part of Iowa in the capacity of a home missionary. In the following spring he was given a call to become pastor of the church. He was a faithful worker, preaching not only in Sibley but in some of the school houses of the adjoining country. He closed his work the first of March, 1880, and the church extended a call to Rev. E. M. Heyburn for six months, at the end of which time he was called for a year, and annually thereafter until his resignation in April, 1887. His seven years of pastorate were marked by many important events, principal of which was the erection of the present church. Before this time the services were held either in the Congregational church or in the old school house. The church site was purchased in April, 1882, and the money for the building was raised by private subscription and a loan from the home missionary society. Some of the work on the building was donated. The church was completed and dedicated in the fall of 1882.

Rev. Heyburn is remembered with warmest affection. He labored long and faithfully during the hard times when the society was hard pressed to pay off the church debt. In order to live and get along he put in many a hard day's work in the harvest field. After Mr. Heyburn resigned in 1887 Rev. C. E. Higgins became pastor, but in less than two months he passed to his reward. His death occurred at Independence, November 3, 1887. In June, 1888, Rev. Schutz, of Buchanan county, came to the church and remained until 1890 and during that time did much effective work. The baptistry was put in the church during the first summer he was here. Then came Rev. Richard Bradshaw from Vermont, in June, 1890. He was a native of England and proved to be a good and faithful worker until he began to suffer from ill health. In the autumn of 1891 he was obliged to give up his work. He went to California, but received no especial benefit from the change and soon received the message to come up higher. The church was without a pastor from November 1, 1891, to July 1, 1892, when Rev. Schutz

returned to Sibley and accepted a call. He remained this time two years, closing his work here November 1, 1893. Again the church was without a pastor for nearly a year. In October, 1894, Rev. McCollum came half time, each alternate Sunday being spent in Worthington where he resided. He was an earnest worker but the church felt the need of a resident pastor on full time, so Rev. D. B. Livingstone began pastoral work in Sibley in December, 1895. The following June he resigned to accept a call to become pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, of Sioux City. Soon after Brother Livingstone left to go to Sioux City the attention of the pulpit committee was directed to Rolla E. Brown, a student at Iowa Falls, and he was secured as pastor. He began work in 1896 and remained for nearly three years. He was a faithful worker and during his pastorate twenty-three members were added to the church by baptism and one by letter. He resigned to resume his school work. The next man called to this field was Rev. Baxter. He was a good man, but peculiar and was asked to resign after serving three months.

The church was then without a pastor for a period of ten months. In October, 1899, Brother C. A. Lemon was called and remained nearly two years, doing faithful work until he resigned August 29, 1901. During Bro. Lemon's pastorate there were added to the membership six by baptism and three by letter. Again the church was like a sheep without a shepherd for nearly nine months, but loyally held together until May, 1902, when Brother A. E. Chandler was called. During his pastorate the Sioux Valley Association met with this church. There were admitted to the church during his pastorate twenty-one by baptism, fourteen by letter and three by experience. He resigned October 30, 1904. May 22, 1905, Rev. Bancroft began work here and resigned March 29, 1906.

Rev. T. W. Harris, of Macon, Georgia, began his pastorate June 3, 1907. Both he and his wife were a great help in many ways. During Rev. Harris' pastorate the church roll was revised and forty-four were dropped, eleven dismissed by letter and seven lost by death. There were added twenty-seven by baptism, six by experience and ten by letter. Rev. Harris resigned June 28, 1908, his resignation to take effect the first of the following October. Once again the church was without a pastor eight months, depending on such supply as could be obtained. In April, 1909, Rev. H. R. Williams, of Doon, Iowa, was called to the church. Both he and his family have been much help to the church and all its auxiliaries. During Bro. Williams' pastorate thus far there have been added to the church two by baptism and eight by letter. One has been dismissed by letter. Rev. Williams is an earnest and scholarly gentleman and is doing a fine work for the church and community.

At the present time the Baptist Young People's Union consists of twenty-eight persons, nearly all of whom are active members. It is one of the most promising departments of the church and points forward to achievements in future work.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HORTON TOWNSHIP.

The first German Lutheran settlers of Horton township came in 1883 from Will county, Illinois. They were Fredrich Glade, Henrich Pinkenburg, August Palenski and Diedrich Wassmann. Wilhelm Noehren and Karl Griep followed in 1884. On Ascension day, May 22, 1884, the Rev. J. D. Hesse, at that time pastor at Hull, Iowa, preached the first German Lutheran sermon in the old Methodist church, then standing on the D. Wassmann place, one mile north and one-half mile west of Ocheyedan. From this date he preached once a month, or as often as was possible, until 1886, when H. Wind, a student from Concordia College, Springfield, Illinois, assisted him, taught school during the winter, and preached. This marked the beginning of the German parochial school of Horton township.

On April 17, 1887, the congregation was organized and a constitution adopted. Since that time it has been known as the Evangelical Lutheran church. The first signers of the constitution were H. Pinkenburg, H. Rusche, Christ Bremmer, August Bremer, Karl Griep, D. Wassmann, Fred. Glade, Chr. Pope, Fr. Kruetzel, August Palenske and Wilhelm Noehren. The first trustees were Fred. Glade, H. Pinkenburg and D. Wassmann. The secretary was Wilhelm Noehren and the treasurer was Chr. Bremer. John Schinnerer was installed as first resident pastor on July 31, 1887. In 1888 the first church and parsonage was built. Fred Glade donated five acres and Karl Griep three acres of land for church and school purposes. In 1892 Rev. Schinnerer answered a call to Michigan and Rev. B. J. Ansoerge took charge. In 1896 Rev. Ansoerge resigned and Rev. Chr. Daeumler, of Sanborn, Iowa, was called. While he was pastor the German Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's church was organized in 1901. This church built a new building in 1902 at a cost of forty-three hundred dollars. The corner stone was laid April 20, 1902, and the new church was dedicated August 31st of the same year. On the day of dedication only six hundred dollars remained unpaid. While Rev. Daeumler had charge of the congregation, he had two assistants, A. Kraft and F. Budi. In February, 1908, Rev. Daeumler followed a call to Oklahoma, and on November 1st, of the same year, the present pastor, D. W. Langelett, was installed by Rev. A. Meukens, of Ocheyedan.

The Lutherans in Horton township established a parochial, or church school, before the congregation was organized and have maintained it ever since. The reason for establishing and maintaining church schools is because they feel it is their duty to instruct their children in the Holy Word of God and make them good Christians. While the Sunday school is good they feel that it is not enough. At the same time they believe if they succeed in making them true Christians they have the very best citizens of the United States. They believe with Daniel Webster, one of the greatest statesmen and orators America has ever known, when he said in his famous Plymouth oration, "Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them also good citizens." And Gladstone, the world renowned statesman of Great Britain, often said, "Try to make good conscientious Christians of your children, and Great Britain will be well satisfied with them as citizens." That is the avowed true spirit that animates the Lutheran congregation. That is the reason they affirm for establishing and maintaining their parochial schools. They desire to give their children the "pearl without price"—the Christian religion—and make them thereby the very best citizens of this country. At times this school has had an enrollment of more than forty names, but at present there are only twenty-one names on the roll.

The voting members of the church number thirty-three at the present time. The present trustees are August Clans, George Ostermann and Conrad Bremer. The German church, since its organization, has always been one of the most important matters among the Germans in Horton township. If by the teachings of the church and school they can make the growing generation as good citizens as the present generation, then the country may certainly be well satisfied.

THE GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF VIOLA TOWNSHIP.

Viola township received quite an influx of German Lutheran farmers about twenty-five or thirty years ago. Wherever these people settle one of the first things considered is church privileges. Many of the older of these settlers do not understand the English language very well, hence they feel the need of a church wherein the preaching will be in their mother tongue.

As early as 1890 the question of a Lutheran church for Viola township and vicinity was discussed, and 1892 a church society was founded. Services were held in a school house at first and in 1895 a building was erected on section 22, on the northwest corner of the farm of Fred Attig. A parsonage was built in 1900, to which an addition was made in 1912.

The first members were John Redinius, Fred Rubow, Gerd Behrends and Herman Timmermann. The first minister was Rev. Beathke, who preached in a school house occasionally as the settlers were coming in. Rev. W. Dietz came in the fall of 1892 and resigned in 1894. He is now located at Hosmer, South Dakota, officiating in a country charge. Rev. Ludwig G. Weinerich accepted a call and was installed in December, 1894, and resigned in November, 1895. He is now a pastor in Germany. Rev. C. Wandertich then held the charge a short time. Rev. F. Chworowski served as pastor from 1897 to 1902. He is now at Jackson, Minnesota. Rev. John Bauermann served from 1902 to 1905 and is now at Ramona, South Dakota. Rev. L. Wiedner came in 1906, died at Harris, Iowa, in the summer of 1907 and is buried in the Sibley cemetery. Mrs. Wiedner died in 1913 and is also buried in the Sibley cemetery. Rev. John Linden served from August, 1907, to March, 1911, and is now at Daykin, Nebraska. Two of his children are buried at Little Rock. Rev. O. C. Biermann came May 1, 1911, and is still in charge of the churches of this denomination in Viola township, Harris and Sibley.

The first baptisms were Bertha Bechmann, dead; Martha Bechmann, the wife of William Kleve; Fred Carl Pieper, now at Rushmore, Minnesota, and Anna Redenius, now Mrs. John Luttermann. The first couple married were William Boesse and Minnie Rubow. Mr. Boesse is now located at Trosky, Minnesota. His wife died in 1910 and is buried at Sibley. The first funeral was that of Henry Julius Nachtigal, who was born November 9, 1846, and died March 20, 1893. This church is located in a rich community, and should prosper and grow as time passes.

THE HOPE CHURCH.

About eighteen years ago there was quite a prosperous settlement of Presbyterian Germans in West Holman township, a few miles west of Sibley. Gerd de Vries was the principal moving spirit in the agitation which led up to the establishment of Hope church. A church society was organized and a church and parsonage erected, which flourished and sustained a pastor several years. The first pastor was Rev. Isaac Kruse. The second Rev. Figge and the third was Rev. Groncke. The present pastor is Rev. L. Heijenga, who has this church and a church in the east end of Lyon county, a few miles from George. He resides at the Lyon county church. Of late years many of the supporters of this church have moved

away, leaving it in rather a weak condition. However, they are keeping up the organization and are living in the hope of better times.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ASHTON.

"Our Lady of Perpetual Help."

On the 9th of June, 1871, the first two German settlers of this parish came to Osceola county to locate their homesteads. In 1872 and 1873 the Germans increased their number to ten families but in the two following years all except three families left Osceola county on account of the grass-hopper scourge. As soon as this plague ceased new settlers continued to come here, so that in the year of 1877 fourteen German families had settled near Ashton and several Irish families near Sibley.

As soon as Rev. B. C. Lenehan of Sioux City and Rev. John Smith of Emmetsburg learned that Catholics had settled in Osceola county they occasionally came to Sibley to look after their spiritual wants. In 1877 Rev. P. J. Lynch was sent as resident priest to Sheldon and for a time looked after the Osceola county Catholics. Within a few years the number of German Catholics near Ashton had increased to twenty-six families and they now frequently spoke of building a church. On September 27, 1880, a meeting was held to determine upon a location for the church. The railroad company had liberally offered to donate five acres of land if the Catholics would build the church near the Ashton station. John Streit offered them five acres of his farm, two and one-half miles from the station, but nearer to the center of the settlement, and for this reason the last offer was accepted. At this meeting a subscription was taken which amounted to \$1,213.00. When Father P. J. Lynch heard of their courage he at once came to Ashton to congratulate the settlers and on September 29, 1880, celebrated the first holy mass in the house of John Streit. Thus the blessing of God was called down upon the new parish and their undertaking. On October 10th work was begun on the new church, twenty-six by forty-eight feet, and it was eventually completed at a cost of \$1,800. The young, but poor, congregation joyfully looked upon the result of their good labors and their joy was greatly increased when Father Lynch came on the 12th of March, 1881, and celebrated holy mass for the first time in the new, but unplastered, church. In 1882 Father Lynch was called away from Sheldon and Rev. J. J. O'Reilly became his successor, under whose care the congregation increased to about ten families. In 1883 Father O'Reilly removed from Sheldon and Rev. T. J. Sullivan succeeded him.

Under Father Sullivan's care the congregation increased to sixty-four German families. Many more came with the intention of settling here, but, finding it impossible to purchase land near the church, went to other places.

This, of course, greatly injured the growth of the congregation. Now they considered it a mistake to have built the church two and one-half miles from the station, which had by this time grown to a little village. For this reason Father Sullivan, with the consent of the Right Rev. Bishop, insisted that the church should be moved to the town of Ashton. In 1885 the present site was bought and the church moved thereon. At the same time four acres of land was bought for a parish cemetery. In June, 1888, Rev. James McCormack was sent to Ashton as the first resident priest. He at once built a handsome little frame parsonage at a cost of twelve hundred dollars, including the furniture. The same year eight new families came here, increasing the number of parishioners to seventy-two. In the spring of 1889 the good father erected the first parish school, a building thirty-six by thirty-eight, at a cost of thirty-two hundred dollars, and at once engaged three sisters of the Order of St. Francis (Dubuque) who opened the school in September with thirty-five pupils.

In 1890 Rev. Father McCormack was transferred to Sheldon and Rev. J. P. Hoffman was appointed to Ashton, taking charge January 25, 1890. The school and the mother language in the church drew German families from all sides, so that in 1892 the parish counted ninety-six families. This growth called for more room in the church. Having already used all available space, it was impossible to give seats to each family. In a meeting it was decided in the following spring to build a new church. In accordance with this decision a lot was bought, the old church moved on it and changed into a parish hall. On May 28, 1893, work was begun on the new frame church building, forty-four by one hundred and twelve feet, at a cost of eight thousand three hundred dollars. On October 25th it was dedicated by Rev. T. Treacy, of Sioux City, who acted as delegate of the Most Rev. Archbishop Hennessey, of Dubuque. On this occasion holy mass was celebrated by Rev. Joseph Brinkmann and the German sermon delivered by the late Rev. Henry Hennesath and the English sermon by Father Treacy. During the five following years the inside of the church was furnished with new pews, a communion rail, pulpit, pipe-organ, chasubles and two side altars, all at a cost of sixty-eight hundred dollars. The high altar was donated by Mrs. Eva Boor, in memory of her deceased husband, at a cost of fourteen hundred dollars. By this time the parish had grown to one hundred

and fifteen families and this naturally increased the number of pupils in the school. In the year 1897 it was found something had to be done to accommodate the increasing number of school children.

The parish therefore concluded that a new school building, forty by sixty feet, should be erected. This was done in the spring of 1898. At the same time the old parsonage was moved near the new school house and enlarged for a sisters' residence and the old school building was remodeled for a parsonage. All this was done at a cost of seventy-two hundred and sixty-nine dollars.

Now it was expected there would be room enough in the school and church for years to come. But the parish continued to grow and in 1910 it was discovered the church was too small. The congregation therefore decided to put a cross addition to it, forty-four by fifty-six feet with a steam heating plant for the church and one for the school. The interior of the church was remodeled and during the year a total of fourteen thousand dollars was expended. The church will now seat seven hundred people and in the school will accommodate two hundred and fifty, two hundred and fifteen seats of which are occupied. Five sisters of the Order of St. Francis, from Dubuque, are instructing the children. The value of the church property is about sixty-five thousand dollars.

This parish has given the diocese one priest, another will be ordained within six months, and a third is studying philosophy. Three girls have become nuns. The confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has a membership of eight hundred and twenty-eight and the sodality of the Immaculate Conception has a membership of one hundred and forty-five. Since the parish has had a resident priest there have been six hundred and twenty-seven baptisms, four hundred and twenty-four confirmations, ninety-five marriages and ninety-five deaths. J. P. Hoffmann, the present pastor, who has been the guiding spirit during the remarkable development of this school and church of the past quarter of a century, was born on November 11, 1855, in the grand duchy of Luxemburg. In the year 1871 he came with his parents to this country and lived with them on a farm near Council Bluffs, Iowa. In January, 1878, he began his classical studies, which he finished at St. Laurence College, Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin, in the year 1882. He went to St. Joseph's College, Dubuque, where he studied philosophy one year and from Dubuque he was sent to the Grand Seminary, Montreal, Canada, where he finished a three years' course of theology. On December 8,

1886, he was ordained priest at St. Raphael's Cathedral, at Dubuque, by His Grace, the Right Rev. Archbishop Hennessey. On the 20th of December he was sent to Willy, Carroll county, Iowa. On September 20, 1887, he was appointed assistant to Rev. August Sauter at Festina, Winneshiiek county, Iowa, where he remained a little over two years. On the 20th of January, 1890, he received his appointment to Ashton, Osceola county, Iowa, where he has spent the best part of his life. A quarter of a century in one place with the results attained is a remarkable record.

ST. ANDREW'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF SIBLEY.

The first Catholic settlers in Osceola county were Nicholas Boor and John Striet. They came on the 19th day of June, 1871, and filed on claims in Gilman township. The first baby of Catholic parentage was born in 1872, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Larkin, and reported to be the first white male child born in the county. The first Catholic couple to be married by Father J. J. Caddon in 1874 was Mr. and Mrs. John Coughlin. The Coughlins now live in Clark, South Dakota. The first funeral was Edward Laharty in February, 1873, who was frozen to death east of Sibley, on section 16. The first mass read in this county was in May, 1873, in Holman township, on the southeast quarter of section 16, on the homestead of Patrick Larkin, by an assistant priest of Father Lenihan, of Sioux City.

The Sibley parish was first served by priests from Sioux City, twice a year, until 1875, when Father Mice, of LeMars, read mass until 1877. In 1877 Father P. J. Lynch was sent as resident priest to Sheldon and took care of the Catholics in and about Sibley. In 1880 the Ashton part of the congregation separated and built a church on the John Streit farm, about two and one-half miles northwest of Ashton. This schism considerably crippled the Sibley congregation. Father Lynch continued to occasionally attend the Sibley parish at the court house until 1882 when Father J. J. O'Reilly succeeded him at Sheldon. He also occasionally attended the Sibley parish. In 1883 the congregation bought the old Sibley school house for church purposes and the south half of block number 51, and moved the school building on it. Father O'Reilly was succeeded by Father T. J. Sullivan at Sheldon in 1883. Father Sullivan came to Sibley once a month until 1888, at which time Father P. J. McCormick was sent to Ashton and also had charge of the Sibley parish until 1890. At that time Father Dollard was appointed for Rock Rapids, reading mass each alternate Sunday in Sibley until the fall of 1897.

During this time the present church was built and cemetery purchased. In the fall of 1897 Father O'Reilly was appointed to Sibley as first resident priest and the congregation then built the present parsonage. Father O'Reilly was succeeded by Father Phelan in 1904, who in turn was succeeded by Father Hetherington in 1909. Father Hetherington remained until the fall of 1913 when Father E. T. Nally, the present pastor, was appointed. The church in Sibley has always been secondary to Ashton, on account of the Catholic school at Ashton, the Sibley congregation not being able to support a school of its own.

The Sibley church property is valued at about twelve thousand dollars and the property is free from all indebtedness. At the first mass the following were present: Larkins family, the Larathy family, Mrs. John Henderson, John Coughlin, John Streit and family, Nick Boor and family, the Zensen family and P. A. Cajacob. The Cajacob family is the only family left here, most of them being dead.

CHAPTER V.

MEDICAL HISTORY OF OSCEOLA COUNTY.

By H. NEILL, M. D.

I have been asked by the editor to write a history of medicine of the county in its pioneer days, and it has occurred to me to attempt to begin my account in the year 1875, the date of my advent into the county, and carry it down to the year 1895. This I recognize to be arbitrary, and rather unsatisfactory, but I have no material on which to construct a history before the first named date, and there are other men in active work more fitted to write a history after the last named year.

In attempting this task, I recognize that I have no peculiar fitness for the work, but I am also aware that I am the only living person who has a good knowledge of events occurring in that early period. Reminiscences are usually pleasant to the old, at least, and if this account should produce as much weariness to the reader as it has pleasure to the writer, the account between the parties will be considered as balanced.

A history of any country should describe its geographical and physical characteristics, and the character, race, religion, and the physiological and mental characteristics of its inhabitants. A medical history is only concerned with the last two subjects.

About seventy per cent. of the early settlers of Osceola county were veterans of the Civil War, and the same is true of northwest Iowa. These veterans stacked arms, married their sweethearts, worked for a while until they could get a yoke of cattle, a few cows and a little money, and in 1871 made a location in this beautiful region. The following year they brought their families and made their permanent homes in this section of the state.

What happened to them will be told by others. I can only state that at the date of my location many had given up the fight and left the country; many had migrated to Sibley, barely a majority still remained on their farms, and practically all were very poor. Some of these old soldiers were suffering from the effects of gunshot wounds, and still more of them from the effects of a strenuous army life.

I was appointed examining surgeon for pensions in 1876 and, at the

biennial examination for that year, forty-three were examined, forty-one for gunshot wounds and two for hernia. At that date it was not generally known that a man could be pensioned for disease. Amongst this number, I wish to mention W. B. Reed, a private, who bore on his person six gunshot wounds and three shell wounds; probably, history records no man with more numerous or more severe wounds. This hero succumbed shortly after this examination to blood poisoning, due to the opening of a wound in the shoulder and the breast; his remains rest in the Holman cemetery, and he should be honored by a suitable monument.

A history of medicine in the county should commence with some account of the early practitioners. From common report, I believe that Bela D. Churchill was the first to practice in the county. He was probably an army nurse and, on his arrival, as there were no doctors, he had to do something in the way of practice. As nearly as I can learn, he met with indifferent success. Whether he ever opened an office in Sibley I have not ascertained.

Dr. J. M. Jenkins lived on a farm about a mile southeast of Sibley. I learn that he was formerly an army surgeon, and a very good practitioner, but never devoted all his time to the practice of medicine while residing in the county. He left shortly before my advent, and I never met him but once, but believe him to have been a good man. After leaving here, he located in LeMars but stayed there only a short time. He retired from practice and removed to a stock farm in Sioux county, where he died many years ago.

Dr. C. L. Gurney was the first man in the county who devoted his whole time to the practice of medicine. He located at Sibley in 1875, a few months prior to my appearance on the scene. He first located on a homestead near Ashton in 1872. As nearly as I can learn, he was employed in some capacity by a doctor in Fayette, Iowa, and came from that place to Ashton. He was of Quaker extraction, and a church of that persuasion being located west of Ashton, and there being no doctor anywhere in that region, the fact that he knew anything about medicine was sufficient to draft him into the work. He was a cripple, due to a tubercular trouble of the knee, and because of this affliction he was finally induced to give up farming and devote all of his time to medicine. Accordingly he sold his farm and located in Sibley, as before mentioned. I found Dr. Gurney to be an estimable man, and, considering his limitations, quite a successful practitioner. He made but little pretensions to knowing much about medi-

cine. As I recollect, he had no surgical instruments, and his library consisted of a work on domestic medicine and Tilden's appendix to the *Materia Medica*. When he wanted a prescription, he consulted that work, in which there was a formula for every disease. I well remember a ride I made with the Doctor. A man, a patient of the Doctor's, came to the road and displayed a fibroid tumor of the hand. Dr. Gurney told the man that it would be a pleasure for him to remove it. Afterwards, I asked the Doctor why he had not performed the operation; his reply was characteristic, "I don't know anything about anatomy and might cut something," meaning an artery, I suppose. At the time mentioned he enjoyed a considerable practice, but under the circumstances, it soon began to wane. Our friendship continued until his death. During his residence in Sibley he took a vacation, and graduated at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Keokuk, Iowa, although he was only absent about six months. In 1880 he removed to Sheldon, and in 1884 became a member of the Sheldon board of United States examining surgeons for pensions, Dr. Longshore and myself being the other members. About 1886 the Doctor sold his practice to Dr. Myers, and removed to Rock Rapids, where he suffered an amputation of his diseased leg. He immediately removed to Doon, Iowa, where he opened a drug store and in connection with his business, practiced medicine. He died there about 1900.

In writing a history of medicine, it is thought best to treat first of the surgery of the region. It is more spectacular, better remembered, and has more human interest than the history of disease. For obvious reasons, the names of patients, both surgical and medical, will be omitted.

AMPUTATIONS.

The first amputation, that of the leg, by resident surgeons, occurred August 11, 1876. This was performed on the person of a male child, a patient of Dr. Gurney's. This was due to an accident. The child had crawled into a wheat field and fallen asleep, and the reaper, driven by the father, nearly severed the leg. The child recovered and is now living in the county.

The next amputation was made July 11, 1877, and was the leg of a female child six years of age. In this operation I had to give my own anesthetic. The child made a quick recovery.

The next amputation, also of the leg, occurred July 15, 1878. A female child bringing water to her father in the wheat field got before the machine

and the leg was so badly mangled that it had to be amputated. I had no assistance in the operation. The patient is still living in the county.

FRACTURES.

During the time which this history covers, practically all kinds of fractures were treated and with only one fatality, due to a fracture at the base of the skull of a baby, caused by the kick of a horse. The child only lived about two hours after the accident. During these twenty years, splints were manufactured at the time of the dressing, and were made of tin, wood, leather, paper or plaster. Among the fractures in this period, were two fractures of the jaw, one simple, the other compound. Strange to say, there was one fracture of the thigh, due to a fall from a tree. In all the time but one had result is noted; this was due to a compound fracture of the leg, treated at first by another practitioner, and, I regret to say, very indifferently. When I first saw it, immediate amputation was necessary the operation was made August 7, 1883, and the patient recovered. In this operation I gave my own ether, and my books show that I received fourteen dollars for the operation and later treatment. Two other amputations may be mentioned as the result of fractures, one for the crushing of a hand in a machine, the other for the crushing of the fingers by the bite of a man. The latter resulted in blood poisoning, and necessitated the amputation of the forearm.

DISLOCATIONS.

They were not very numerous and were generally of the shoulder joint. Most of them were quickly reduced without an anesthetic. No account of the number can be given on account of lack of space.

APPENDICITIS.

During this period I have notes of twenty-nine cases treated, with only three deaths. There were seven operations for the disease, all for appendiceal abscess except the last, in which case the appendix was removed. One death was noted after an operation in 1894, due to inflammatory adhesions one week after operation. The first operation in the county for the disease occurred August 8, 1888. In this operation I was assisted by Dr. Stoner of Rock Rapids. The patient made a speedy recovery. There were two cases treated medically which died, both fulminant cases, terminating

in death within less than forty-eight hours. Thus, there were twenty-two cases treated medically, with two deaths, and seven operative cases, with one death. It is probably true that all of the seven cases would have died if they had not been subjected to operation.

CANCER.

Cases of the disease were not numerous. I have notes of three cases of cancer of the lip that were subjected to operation. The first operation was in the case of an old man. There was no recurrence of the disease before the death of the patient with pneumonia later the same year. The next operation was in the case of a man about fifty years of age and occurred October 5, 1885. Besides removing the lip, the glands of the neck and jaw were extirpated. Recurrence set in six months later with fatal result. The next operation was performed August 15, 1889, recurrence setting in four months later with fatal termination. The first operation for sarcoma was performed May 7, 1878. This was on the person of an aged woman and was for sarcoma of the humerus. I operated without any assistant. The patient died March 8, 1879, due to a general metastasis of the disease. The only successful operation for cancer of the breast that I have to report occurred July 21, 1892. In this operation I was assisted by Dr. Cram of Sheldon, and another doctor from Sanborn. The patient was about forty years of age. The operation was a complete one, the breast and glands of the armpit being removed. This woman is still living, and, I believe, is the only one who has survived five years, although many have been subjected to operation.

STONE IN THE BLADDER.

The first operation for this disease occurred in a case of a boy of sixteen years and was performed November 1, 1890. In this operation I was assisted by Dr. Cram of Sheldon and Dr. Ely of Ocheyedan. The lad recovered. I believe this to be the first operation for the disease attempted in northwestern Iowa. The next case, also successful, was on a man about forty years of age and was due to chronic disease of the bladder. I was also assisted in this operation by Dr. Cram.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

Two fatal cases have occurred. One died before I could reach him, and the other, with a gunshot wound in the abdomen, died of internal hemorrhage in about two hours after being shot.

TYPHOID FEVER.

In the early days this was the most widely disseminated of all the acute diseases, especially in the autumn of the year. During the first decade the cases were very numerous, but the mortality was very light, not averaging much more than five per cent. During the second decade the cases were less numerous, but the mortality was much higher, being fully twenty per cent. It is my belief that the disease was mostly due to infected flies, for most of the cases originated in the country, where at that time the houses were rarely screened. But few cases appeared in Sibley and these could in most cases be traced to an infection from the country. The youngest case noted occurred in a child of three months and the oldest in a man of seventy-eight. I have observed but one recovery from the disease in a person over fifty-five years of age. In the case of the baby referred to above, the mother having the disease, a young girl took the baby to her home and slept with it. In consequence, the girl contracted the disease, and, I regret to state, died in less than three weeks after the onset of the disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease was present in a sporadic form during the whole period that this history covers. I wish to give an account of the heroism of a young woman, before giving a history of the great epidemic of 1885 and subsequent years. This incident occurred near the present town of Ocheyedan, in December, 1879. I was called to the stricken home and found a child dying from the disease and two other children very ill; the weather was very cold; the room in which the children were lying was very poorly ventilated and kept very warm. The sick child died that night, and on the occasion of my next visit, I found Nellie Boyd in the room taking care of the children. I asked her why she was present and she replied that some one had to do it. She then asked me if I thought that she would contract the disease if she stayed. I replied that it was practically impossible for any one to stay and not be infected. She looked at me a moment and

quietly replied: "Doctor, I counted the cost when I came and I will stay, for I would rather stay here and die than run the risk of bringing this disease to my loved ones." Within three days, the fatal disease seized her and in forty-eight hours terminated her young life.

The great epidemic of the disease had its inception in eastern Lyon county, in February, 1885. On the occasion of my first visit I told the parents what the disease was, and urged them not to allow any one to come into the house. But as there were no health boards in existence at the time, I found the house crowded with neighbors at my next visit. I was much annoyed and told them that they and their families were in great danger. They resented this warning as impertinent and told me they were not afraid. Of course, the disease spread, and during the following spring and summer eighty-one cases occurred with twenty-seven deaths. Of the cases of nasal diphtheria, nearly all succumbed, the recoveries being in older children and adults. Strange to relate, although the epidemic lingered until the winter of 1887, only one adult—a young woman—died. At the last named date, the county supervisors finally gave me authority to stop the disease without any reference to expense. Obeying orders, I employed a competent man to assist me, and the first point of attack was the residence of an old lady. This good woman had carried the disease in a virulent form to several families and had actually caused the death of fourteen children. I burned all the beds and bedding in the house and most of the clothing, and thoroughly disinfected it. The same was done in two other homes, and finally the plague was stayed. Since that time but few cases of the disease have appeared in the county and, thanks to antitoxin, with but light mortality.

DYSENTERY.

This is the only other epidemic to be noted. It occurred in the summer and autumn of 1875 and caused several deaths in Sibley and the surrounding country. No cause can be ascertained for this epidemic and since that period but few cases have occurred. These have been mostly in children under ten years of age and generally of light mortality.

SCARLET FEVER.

This occurred every year but generally in a very light form. Two deaths in children are noted, one as the result of a surgical operation. The

other child died from acute Bright's disease. The child seemingly did not have the disease, but had slept with her sister who undoubtedly had the disease. The small mortality is difficult to explain, as usually the mortality is considerable in this disease.

MEASLES.

Cases of the disease were very numerous, at times approaching the character of an epidemic, but with no mortality from the disease itself. I have notes of four cases of death from its sequelae. One peculiar incident must be quoted, viz: two attacks of the disease occurring in a patient within six weeks.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This scourge in all its protean forms was always present, but not common in young children, the disease being mostly among adults or adolescents. There were two fatal cases of tuberculous meningitis in adults. This is very rare except in young children. The mortality from the disease, on the whole, was light. I note two operations for tuberculous glands of the neck, one operated on in 1888, still living; the other having disappeared. There were three operations for tuberculous disease of the hip joint—two recoveries and one death. I performed one operation for tuberculosis of the knee with death of bone—resection of six inches of the femur. The patient never fully recovered but lived about twenty years.

CHRONIC PLEURISY.

This was not infrequent, and eight operations were performed for its relief. While at the time no deaths occurred, and in every case there was a partial recovery, six of these cases have died from tuberculosis, while the history of the other two is unknown. This is a strong inference that the disease is always of tuberculous origin.

PNEUMONIA.

Neither lobar nor catarrhal pneumonia were especially frequent, and the mortality was very light considering the grave nature of the malady.

CHRONIC MUSCULAR RHEUMATISM.

With the exception of nasal catarrh, this was the most common disease. Unhappily, this seems to be incurable, and only relief, in this climate, can be expected.

ACUTE RHEUMATISM.

This was not especially frequent, and only two deaths occurred. Both were due to high temperature which caused death in a few hours.

ECZEMA.

In all its forms eczema was very frequent, due, I believe, to the irritating winds of the region. I have often remarked "that a doctor who could not treat eczema successfully had no business in Osceola county."

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

Four cases of this disease occurred in 1879 and 1880, with one death. As far as known, no cases have occurred since.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza first appeared in the county in 1889, and has been present ever since, at times being almost an epidemic. It has been a great outlet for human life, especially so in the aged and in those depressed in health.

In the preceding pages I have tried to give a brief history of the surgery and practice of medicine in the county from 1875 to 1895, inclusive. I fully appreciate its fragmentary character, but space will not admit of its fuller treatment. Many interesting cases of disease have not been mentioned, for the reason that they might not prove interesting, and further, space would not admit of an extended discussion.

DR. H. NEILL.

I was born of Scotch-Irish parentage on April 19, 1844, at Granby, province of Quebec, a frontier settlement near the Vermont line. I lived there until 1855 when my parents moved to Hennepin county, then the territory of Minnesota, where the family located on a homestead near

Lake Minnetonka. I went to school for a short time each winter in a log school house and grew up as "verdant" as the foliage of the trees that surrounded our log cabin. At the opening of the Civil War the family scattered. In all, six of us enlisted, this including brothers by marriage. One died in the service in 1862, one was killed at Gettysburg, one died at the Wilderness, one was badly wounded at Cold Harbor and died afterwards on account of his wounds, one dragged out a miserable existence for several years on account of ill health, and the writer, when mustered out, weighed one hundred and eighteen pounds. At the close of the war, I had thirteen hundred dollars and, by working summers, and going to school the rest of the year, was finally "ground out" by the University of Michigan in March, 1871.

Here a digression is necessary to show how a doctor was prepared to cope with the numerous ills of humanity forty-one years ago. I hold no brief for the University of Michigan when I state that it was above the average of medical schools in its requirements at that date, for it required two sessions of six months each. It gave two courses of lectures and only one of these courses could be taken in one year. Thus, in order to graduate, a man had to pursue the study of medicine two years, while in numerous medical schools, you could enter in October and be a full-fledged doctor the next June.

The professors in the University of Michigan had written lectures, and the same lectures were used at both sessions, with the exception of the professor of anatomy, who had no written lectures and was really the greatest anatomist of his time with this exception. The time of the student would have been more properly spent in reading text books. There were about two hundred who graduated in 1871, mostly Union and Confederate soldiers, all quite as ignorant as myself.

We had not seen an amputation, had not attended an obstetrical case, had examined no cases of disease, had seen no fracture, knew nothing of asepsis or antiseptics, but we were well drilled on the materia medica. Now a medical education like the above was considered first class at that time, and so it is seen that a large share of the doctors who flocked to the frontier had no real medical education whatever. Some went West after a little study in a doctor's office; some with no study at all. One prominent practitioner was an end man in a minstrel show, another was a street car conductor. The minstrel man attained to such a practice that he actually died of overwork. While it was impossible for a man to be prepared for

the work that was laid on his shoulders, still, it must be conceded, that, taken as a whole, we pioneer doctors were a "rotten lot."

My outfit on starting out consisted of the following: Flint's Practice, Smith's Diseases of Children, Meig's Obstetrics and Diseases of Women, Erichsen's Surgery, Dalton's Physiology and Gray's Anatomy. I had a pocket case of instruments, a few tooth forceps, an amputating case, and a pair of saddlebags. I did not at that time have a horse, and worst of all, did not have a fur coat.

I located in a town in southwestern Minnesota in February, 1872, and here my troubles commenced. I think I cursed the day of my birth every day for at least six months, and on some days cursed it twice for good luck. Some of my mistakes were tragic, some were funny, but all were intensely interesting to me at that period of my existence; some were doubtlessly interesting to my poor patients. I can only say that thrice and four times happy was Sibley to have missed me at the time I was learning to be a physician. I was finally forced to leave my first location on account of the grasshopper scourge and, after practicing a year in eastern Minnesota, came to Sibley with my horse on October 16, 1875. I had two hundred and twelve dollars when I arrived, and that was practically all the money I had on earth after spending about four years in honest if not skillful practice.

I am glad to say that the people of Osceola county took me at once to their hearts and I soon had a good practice. But there was no money to be had, the board for myself and horse was a dollar a day, and by the next spring I was absolutely penniless. I had spent what money I brought with me to Sibley as well as the little that remained when I entered practice four years previously. Still, I was not discouraged. I loved the people, loved the work and the country, and never thought of leaving.

How I existed for the first few years, I do not know, for my ledger for 1876 shows that I only received \$315. In this connection I will state for the benefit of some young medical students that my gross receipts from my medical practice from 1872 to 1912, inclusive, was about \$74,500. At least two thousand dollars of this was for the examination of pensioners. Did I earn it? I think you will agree that I did after reading my story.

In 1878, realizing my limitations, I borrowed some money and went to New York City and in 1879 graduated from the Bellevue Hospital Medical College. This I afterwards supplemented with a course at the New York Polyclinic, and thus was much better fitted for the duties of my profession.

Although I was in debt in the sum of three hundred dollars, on October 1, 1879, I was married to Ella J. Whitney, a teacher of the county, and it

was a good investment, for she made a present to me of herself, and with it a world of love. To this union three children were born, all girls and all still unmarried.

The rest of my life is so well known that it would be useless to recount any of its incidents. For the benefit of future generations I will now relate some of the many interesting experiences of my forty years of practice in this county, and I trust that no one will be able to recognize any of the actors that I will throw on the screen of memory.

In the medical history of the county, I have purposely written nothing about its midwifery, believing that the subject could be better elucidated by a relation of cases. I will state that I came into the county with an experience of four years, most varied and stormy experiences, with more bad cases than the ordinary physician would have had in twenty years of practice. As each case presents a risk of life to two human beings, it naturally is the greatest responsibility which can confront the physician. I have always approached each and every case with a prayer that I might be able to assist the suffering mother to bring safely a human being into the world, and I will state that I left no woman undelivered during my whole residence in Sibley. I never had assistance and, if responsible for any death, it is related in these reminiscences. As will be noted, I have not confined myself to the subject of midwifery alone, but have tried to make a pen picture of a frontier doctor's life. I will not attempt to separate the tragic, or the comic, but will relate them just as they occur to memory.

I was called to see a woman in twin labor, and on my arrival found the woman dead from hemorrhage, one of the children dressed, and the other in the body of the dead mother. The husband, for fear of expense, would not send for a doctor until the women in attendance sternly ordered him to do so. Here were two lives snuffed out in which there was a fighting chance to save one and an absolute certainty in the case of the other. I was called to see a woman during a storm and arrived about midnight. I found the patient very ill with a distinct odor of sepsis. I at once asked the husband what he had been doing. He replied, "She would not have any more children." Upon my asking by what means she had attempted to procure the abortion, he produced the remains of an old pitchfork, one of the tines of which had been broken. With this she had evidently pierced the womb in her mad attempt. She died that night and in looking over the little brood of half-clothed children I could hardly condemn her. I trust her Savior took the same view.

I was attending a Norwegian woman, who was very ill after a severe

labor, and at times suffered severe pain, necessitating the use of morphine. The women present noticed that when I administered a dose of morphine, she became quiet. They greatly admired the effect of these "leettle powders," and the baby being peevish and crying a great deal, they reasoned that the morphine tablets would be good for the baby. They gave it one; it fell asleep, and it still slumbers.

I was called to see a woman, who had been in labor for sixteen hours, and found her absolutely exhausted, and the unborn baby with a presentation that made it absolutely impossible for it to be born by any effort of nature. The doctor in attendance had made the diagnosis, but why he had not called for assistance sooner I do not know. I saw it was a case of the destruction of the child, or of turning and delivering it by the feet. As the woman was greatly exhausted, I chose the latter alternative, and delivered a living child. Although I used extreme care, the womb was ruptured and the woman died. To tell the truth, the agony of mind that this case occasioned me I cannot express, and to this day it is an incubus.

After these sober memories, it might be refreshing to the reader to learn something of the humorous that occurs in a doctor's life. I was called to see a woman, who, the husband stated, was about to be confined. I found the woman in bed with women in attendance. On examination, I found that she was not pregnant and so stated. Both the woman and her husband said I was badly mistaken, that they had been married nine months, had complied with all the prerequisites, and they were going to have a baby. This sounds like a fairy tale, but it is the truth.

Two married sisters were living in the same house. One of the sisters was confined about two weeks previous to the episode which I am about to relate, and I noticed at the time that the other sister was very much interested in the progress of the case. One night about two A. M. I was called to go to the same house. When I arrived I found the sister, who had not been confined, in what seemed to be all the pangs of labor. I learned that I had been called, but not being at home, they had procured another doctor, who had remained with her for twenty-four hours with no result. The husband became dissatisfied, discharged him, and called a little cock-eyed Englishman, who pretended to be a doctor. He stayed with her for another twenty-four hours, and then told the husband that the child could not be born without a Caesarian operation (opening of the abdomen), and that he would go to his office and prepare for the operation. He evidently thought better of it, and went into hiding. At this juncture I was sent for. Upon examination I found that she was not pregnant, and so in-

tormented her, and told her I wanted her to quit her fooling, discharge her attendants, get up and get me some breakfast, which she did. This was a case of hysteria on her part induced by suggestion—but what ailed the other two doctors?

I was called to see a German woman and found the whole neighborhood at her bedside, most of them weeping. The woman would make explosive sounds in her throat and then her whole body would spring about eight inches upward. Then she would subside for about a minute and the gymnastics would be repeated. I learned that this had been going on for more than twenty-four hours, with the result that the woman and her friends needed rest. I had no medicine that I thought would fit the case, but I had heard of an old remedy for hysteria, that I thought might fit the case. I asked with all soberness for a hammer and a kettle of hot water. I put the hammer in the water and waited until it was thoroughly hot and then applied it to the patient's spine. It produced a very satisfactory redness, and relieved the gymnastics effectually. On leaving I told the patient that if the attack returned again the hammer was to be reapplied. The attack did not return.

I was called to see a case of labor and made a ride of twenty-four miles across an unsettled prairie. I found a woman that had been in labor for three days. She actually, on account of the agonizing pain, had almost lost the semblance of a human being. Her people had given her up for lost. Happily, I delivered her of a dead child in about ten minutes. The people present did everything but worship me. On leaving the husband said, "Doctor, I am a very poor man, but if there is anything about this place that you want, just take it with my blessing." I am impelled to state that being able to do a service to these good people gratified me more than anything in my poor career.

Oh, women! surrounded by love, luxury and pleasant environments, think of the sufferings, both physical and mental, so imperfectly portrayed in these pages, of your sisters during maternity and childbirth! Imagine yourself in labor in a shack out on the distant prairie, with women as ignorant as yourself, or alone with a frantic husband and a fierce wintry storm raging! Then thank God that you are not a woman of the seventies.

In a novel by "Ian McLaren" there is a story of an old doctor and his horse, and I think it not inappropriate to give a brief sketch of "Moro," my matchless bay gelding (born 1867, died 1894), which was almost my only means of transportation for about twenty years. If it had not been for

that noble animal, I would have been financially unable to give proper service to the people of the county in the early years of its settlement. I believe that he was the best horse that ever lived, and to say that I drove him a distance more than twice around the world, is susceptible of mathematical proof. That would be less than ten miles a day and therefore three times around would be nearer the truth. I swam rivers with him several times in order to reach patients; twice he saved me from injury by jumping from falling bridges, and at times I got him into snow drifts that no other animal could have extricated himself. He never was tired, and always was as playful as a kitten.

Speaking of snow drifts recalls an incident of pioneer life. On a morning in March, at a time when the snow was melting, I approached a ravine that contained an enormous snow bank. Having entire confidence in his great strength I rode right into it, and immediately both horse and rider dropped into its depths and almost disappeared. I managed to get out of the saddle and crawled in front of him. At once the noble animal jumped right over me and plunged me into the snow and water. After a while I managed to get out in his wake, but was wet from head to foot. At a short distance ahead was a one-room shanty, and I approached it at a gallop; a woman came to the door, and I told her "explanations were useless," and gave her my name. She said that her husband had some clothes that she thought I could use, and at once produced them, saying, "I will go out to the stable and look for some eggs and when you are ready call me." She went to the stable and I changed into her husband's clothes. On my return trip, she had my clothes dried, again she went to the stable for eggs, and the incident was closed. My opinion at that time was that the woman was an angel and it is still unchanged.

Referring to the subject of typhoid fever: in the novel "Beside the Bonny Briar Bush" by "Ian McLaren," he tells of the old doctor who carried water all night to reduce the temperature of a delirious patient; that was fiction. At the risk of being called egotistical, I wish to relate an incident that is *not* fiction, and the patient and the doctor are still living. It occurred north of Sibley in 1879. I was attending three brothers in one house who were ill with the disease. Two of the brothers were convalescing at this particular visit, but the other had a temperature of 106, and was wildly delirious with very grave symptoms. I knew that a cold bath was imperative, for cold sponging had not reduced the temperature. Of course, there was no bath tub, but there was a pork barrel outside. As the mother was tired, I filled the barrel with water from the well, removed the patient's

shirt, dumped him into the barrel and watched him for fifteen minutes. When his temperature markedly subsided, I pulled him out of the barrel dried him and shortly afterward he fell into a quiet slumber. I directed the barrel to remain, and if he became delirious again to repeat the bath. The bath was repeated twice and he eventually recovered.

In this connection I wish to relate an unusual incident in typhoid fever. viz: acute delirium in the early stage of the disease, although insanity is not uncommon as its sequelae. I was called in consultation by a neighboring practitioner in the capacity of a commissioner on insanity. I noted that the doctor told me to "go right in," but did not go in himself. Later I learned that the patient had driven the doctor away with a shotgun that morning. On examination I found a well developed case of typhoid fever. Under cold sponging, he soon rested, eventually recovered and is still living in the county.

A HUMAN PINCUSHION.

As a surgical curiosity, I wish to relate the following case: The woman was about fifty years of age, truly a "mother in Israel" and one of my warmest friends. She gave a history of severe attacks of pain in the stomach, which at times would necessitate the inhalation of chloroform to relieve her agony. These attacks of pain had recurred at irregular intervals for years. Sometimes I would lose four nights' sleep in succession in order to make her condition bearable. This continued for years, until, on account of my absence from the town, she came under the care of the late Dr. Gurney and under his care she died. When I first attended her she complained of her breast, and I noted an opening into the gland, which, she said, had existed for years. At times the breast would swell, an abscess form and discharge through the opening, and when the medical attendant would introduce forceps, a needle or a pin would be extracted. She showed me quite a collection of these pins and needles. In some way, I was skeptical, for I believed that her former doctor had deceived her, but after about four months' attendance, an abscess formed, which I opened and introduced a probe that revealed a foreign body, which on extraction proved to be a pin. In about three months the same process was repeated, and this time it proved to be a needle. Then the opening in the breast healed and no more were extracted. This woman was not a hysterical subject nor was she a malingerer, if she had been either, more pins would have been forthcoming. The reader can form his own conclusions.

I feel that I have related too many of these reminiscences. Others

there are, just as sad, just as tragic and just as humorous, but those related, I trust, will give the reader some idea of a pioneer doctor's life. If space would permit, I would like to make some acknowledgment of the great kindness bestowed on me by some of the living, and more by those of the dead. To the former, and more especially to the noble women that so freely trusted me, I tender my heartfelt gratitude; to the memory of the latter I consecrate an undying love. Of the hard drives, the cold, the wet, the sleepless nights, the worry and anxiety of such a life, there can be no record unless in the book of God's remembrance, and in that Book which records "even a cup of cold water," let us trust that the pioneer doctors will, at least, have a red mark.

BELA A. WILDER (NON-GRADUATE).

Dr. Wilder came to Sibley from Atlantic, Iowa, in 1885. While the profession never took him seriously as a doctor, it liked him as a man. Reserved in his manner and inclined to be secretive, yet he was always genial and met the world with a smile. With one exception, I never heard him make an unkind remark of any one, and on this occasion he was abundantly justified and ought to have caned the villainous doctor. He was the most self-centered man the writer ever knew, had no library, but few instruments, never read a medical journal, and seemed to be perfectly satisfied with his attainments and gloried in his past experience. I never knew that the Doctor had ever practiced surgery until one day, during the writer's absence, he walked into his office, amputated an arm, using the writer's instruments, and performed the operation in good shape. His practice was mostly confined to obstetrics and diseases of women, and he seemed to enjoy the confidence of his patients. He was a strict follower of Hahnemann, and confined himself entirely to that materia medica. The Doctor in his last illness (diabetes) dosed himself with large amounts of sugar, thus showing his faith in "*similia similibus curantur*." Although the Doctor, like every one else, had his faults, nevertheless, he was a lovable man.

WILBUR S. WEBB, M.D.

Dr. W. S. Webb was born in Wisconsin about 1860. He graduated from Rush Medical College in 1884 and came to Sibley the same year. Nothing is known of his early history more than that his mother was a widow, and that he was a self-made man in every respect. He came to Sibley with but few books, less instruments, and absolutely penniless. He was

associated with Dr. Neill in practice until 1886, when he removed to Ellsworth, Minnesota, where he practiced his profession until 1888. He then removed to Worthington, Minnesota, entered into practice with Dr. Curran, and died there from typhoid fever in 1894. The Doctor was a good, conscientious man, strictly honest and fair in his dealings with his confreres, society, and his patients. His was an impulsive nature, easily excited, but yet under control. He was a good practitioner, a diligent student, and well informed on medical subjects. If his life had been prolonged he would have made an excellent surgeon. Like a good many doctors, he knew nothing about finance and the only estate he left was the love and respect of his medical brethren and a small life insurance policy.

Dr. Neill has given quite a sketch of his experience of his forty years in the practice of medicine in Osceola county, now who is to tell something of Dr. Neill? Probably there is no one better qualified for that task than the editor of these sketches, as he was here before Dr. Neill came and is still on the map.

It has been a rare experience to be blessed with health and strength to come into a new country and stand the hardships of so many years' practice and be alive to tell the tale. Dr. Neill is not only alive but well and strong. Although he is past seventy years of age he is well and strong and has every appearance of a man of much younger age. One would not think he had buffeted the storms and defied the weather of all the seasons, night and day, in this rigorous and changeable climate for so many years. He left in 1913 for a tour around the world, a trip which no one of his age, except he be well and strong, would dare to undertake. He and his old horse, Morro, were for a long time the most familiar figures known in this county and many times, especially in stormy winter weather, their appearance driving into an afflicted settler's yard were looked upon as a God-send. He has assisted hundreds of children in making their advent into this world of smiles and tears, has seen many of these same children married and helped them in turn to bring in their children; he has wept with them in their bereavement in the loss of some of their dear ones, when their loss seemed unbearable. Amid all this work and worry and exhausting hardship he was never too weary to respond to a call for help. If, as he says, he was not very well qualified for the tasks he undertook he was endowed with a good mind and quickly learned by experience, that best of all schools, and soon was very skillful in the treatment of the diseases of the

time and place. It is doubtful if any one could have averaged better than he, probably few could have done as well.

So much for Dr. Neill as a doctor. The more difficult task is to describe him as a man. His is a rare combination of Irish wit, Scotch caution and Methodist earnestness. He is seemingly uncouth, yet a gentleman, rough and hard hearted in appearance, yet tender as a child, and most rare of all—a Democrat in politics, yet a prohibitionist and teetotaler. As a financier he has been a marked success. When times turned for the better and he found himself a few dollars ahead, he exercised fine judgment in making his surplus dollars earn other dollars until he has amassed a comfortable fortune. Yet he always has given freely to the church and all philanthropic enterprises, always provided he could be made to see merit in the proposition. His was the moving spirit in the donation of the Grand Army hall to the Sibley public library. He has always been the friend of the old soldiers. A pensionable disease or injury had to be very elusive if he could not discover it, and its trail exceedingly obscure or he could trace it to service in the army. J. F. Glover, pension attorney, and Dr. Neill, examining surgeon, made a team that was hard to beat.

CHAPTER VI

THE LEGAL FRATERNITY.

The first attorneys were Winspear and Blackmore, both identified with and leaders in the "get-rich-quick" gang. The overwhelming majority of our early settlers came here with an intention of establishing a home and adhered only to strictly honest methods in the pursuit of their laudatory efforts. They were a sturdy and resolute class of people who could not be hoodwinked or cajoled into crooked methods. At the same time they were so busy with their own legitimate efforts that they were not watching the dishonest fellows, but when knowledge of crookedness manifested itself, action was spontaneous and effective. While Winspear and Blackmore were busy with their game, along came J. F. Glover, J. T. Barclay, C. I. Hill, Hugh Jordan and very soon, D. D. McCallum and others, all of whom lined up on the side of the people and honest methods. So swift was reformation that within one year the hoodlers were fugitives from justice and the county never again saw them.

J. F. Glover, one of the first attorneys, served as clerk of courts, state representative, county attorney, justice of the peace, mayor of Sibley, editor of the *Ashton Argus*, editor of the *Sibley Gazette* and a correspondent from this county for newspapers published elsewhere. He practiced law more or less all the time. He is an old soldier and has been very successful as a pension attorney. Of late years he has been ordained as a Congregational minister and preached one year at Ocheyedan. He is frequently called to fill engagements as supply man. He still lives in Sibley, enjoying fairly good health and high esteem. He is well informed and a ready speaker on any political or religious topic.

C. I. Hill formed a partnership with H. L. Emmert in a general banking business, but soon dropped out of the firm and engaged in the practice of law in company with J. T. Barclay. Barclay and Hill did a general law business and in the meantime secured the agency for the sale of the railroad land and finally drifted into the real estate and banking business. Mr. Hill's health failed and he died of consumption. Mr. Barclay then formed

a partnership with Cline Bull and organized the Sibley Exchange Bank although he still retains the real estate business. When several Englishmen came to the town the Sibley Exchange Bank was sold to them and Barclay and Bull each received about seventy-five thousand dollars. Barclay remained here and continued the land business and in a few years doubled his money. Mr. Bull went to California and invested in Sacramento Valley land and lost one-half of his wealth in a few years by reason of great floods. However, being a resourceful man, he reorganized and recovered all his losses, being at present wealthy and prosperous. Mr. Barclay died in Des Moines a few years ago.

Hugh Jordan was a bright lawyer, but made the mistake of changing to the mercantile business, in which he did not succeed as well as in the law. He died many years ago. His widow still lives in Sibley and occupies the old home.

D. D. McCallum was a little later in getting into the law business. He was strictly a self-made man. He borrowed books from Jordan and others and studied while on his homestead and finally made an energetic and successful attorney. He rounded out his career as judge of the district court and died in Sibley of malignant cancer.

C. M. Brooks located here in the spring of 1885 and has done a general law business continuously since. He was county attorney several terms. He is a scholarly gentleman well versed in the law, of a judicial turn of mind and a safe legal adviser.

O. J. Clark came to the county a month after Mr. Brooks. He also has done a general law business. He at once became legal advisor for the First National Bank, which position he has since held. He is now county attorney. He is an energetic practitioner.

George W. Lister came in 1884. He was a careful advisor but a little too diffident for a rough and tumble scrapper in court. However, he had a little money, married a little more, secured some from his father's estate and handled it all so judiciously that when he died a few years ago he left a handsome estate. He served as justice of the peace, county attorney and state senator. His widow still lives in Sibley.

Hunter & Herrig located here in the later eighties and opened a law and abstract office. They received a liberal patronage from the start. Mr. Hunter was a man of considerable experience as a lawyer before he came here, having previously practiced law at Wall Lake several years. Herrig, a young man of pleasing personality, soon afterwards sold his interest to A. W. McCallum, who had been clerk of district court several terms, and the firm

continued as Hunter & McCallum until recent years. Mr. Hunter paid particular attention to law and McCallum to the abstracting business. Either could attend to the work of the other when necessary. Mr. Hunter was prominent in the order of Freemasons and at one time was state grand master. A few years ago he was attacked by a cancer in the neck which resulted in his death. Mr. Hunter's business and library were purchased by Benjamin F. Butler, who is now conducting a prosperous practice and promises to make one of the leading attorneys of the county.

Two young lawyers came here along in the nineties under the firm name of Russell & Burrell, but did not remain long. Russell went to Castlewood, South Dakota, where he is now practicing law. Burrell went to Oklahoma and became very successful.

Captain R. J. Chase came to Sibley in the early seventies and practiced law here a short time. He was broken in health when he came, but, regaining his health, opened an office in Sioux City, where he soon received a lucrative practice. He moved his family there and remained in the practice many years as one of the foremost attorneys of that city. Later he moved to Seattle, Washington, made lucky investments in real estate and died a few years ago very wealthy.

E. H. Coopman is a young attorney and a recent arrival in Sibley. He has a growing practice and is meeting the usual experience of most young attorneys in getting started. He is a young man of good habits and there is no reason why he should not succeed.

Willard Carver and a Mr. Barrett tried to practice law in Ocheyedan for a short time, but soon left. A Mr. Nelson tried to practice in the same town with no better results. H. E. Dean, the present mayor of Ocheyedan, is an attorney, although he gives most of his attention to the real estate business. He is an extensive landowner and one of the most energetic men of the county.

W. C. Garberson located in Ashton and practiced law a few years and moved to Sibley, where he has a general law practice. He is a young man and is having good success. Although a Democrat in a Republican county, he has been elected several times to the office of county attorney.

Our people have been very successful in keeping out of legal troubles. Osceola county has always been a hard proposition for attorneys. While the terms of court here rarely last longer than one week, in most of the other counties in the district it takes two weeks to dispose of the business. Our attorneys work for the interest of their clients and are successful in settling

many matters without going to court, for which the people owe them a debt of gratitude.

For twelve or fifteen years after this county was first organized several attorneys from Sioux City practiced to a considerable extent at Sibley. At that time there was a circuit court that had jurisdiction over probate matters and a district court that attended to criminal proceedings. Both courts had jurisdiction over civil proceedings. At that time there was a district attorney instead of a county attorney in each county. Judge Zouver presided over the circuit court and Judge Ford over the district court. C. H. Lewis was the first district attorney. Lewis was soon elected as district judge, which position he held many terms. Both Judge Lewis and Judge Zouver were fine lawyers and made good judges. Judge Zouver was thrown from a buggy and received an injury of the head which finally resulted in his death. Judge Lewis retired and practiced law in Sioux City where he died several years ago. Among the attorneys from Sioux City who practiced in this county was R. J. Chase, who lived and practiced in Sibley a few years. He was a careful and painstaking attorney who took great pains to study his cases and prepare for trial. He was clear headed and quick and tried his cases very thoroughly. Judge Swan was one of the leading attorneys in Sioux City who also practiced many years in this county. He wanted to be sure his client was right and then relied on thorough preparation to win his case in court. He was slow but safe. He was very strong where title to real estate was involved. He did much to get the title to the James estate lands in good shape. He was attorney for the Iowa Land Company during all the years of its operations in this county.

William Joy, at one time of the firm of Joy & Wright, was a big man in several ways. He was a large man, in fact, a giant in stature, and ponderous of mind, as well as body. He was a hard worker, who commenced striking heavy blows at the very beginning of a trial and pounded away like a sledge hammer to the end. He was so big and strong he seemed never to tire.

Judge Pendleton was one of those brilliant fellows who depended so much on his eloquence and wit to carry him through that he frequently failed for lack of preparation. He depended too much on the spur of the moment. However, he was a brilliant man and fine orator, and had hosts of friends.

Steven M. Marsh, of Sioux City, followed C. H. Lewis, as district attorney. In appearance and dress he was a perfect dandy. He was bright, keen, witty, quick and sarcastic. He was quite successful in making sport

of the opposing attorney, thus weakening the influence of the opposing lawyers.

There was an attorney by the name of Thomas Uppdegraff, from McGregor, at one time congressman from the fourth congressional district, who came to this county and appeared in court several times representing the Chicago, St. Paul & Milwaukee Railroad Company in its suit against the Sioux City & St. Paul Railroad Company for the possession of the railroad lands in this county. He was a brilliant attorney and hard to beat. He was very suave and respectful to the court and clear in his expressions of the points in controversy and, although he went down to defeat eventually, he made a valiant fight and went away as gracefully as he came.

CHAPTER VII.

MILITARY HISTORY.

So many of the early settlers of this county were veterans of the Civil War, it seems fitting that this opportunity should be **embraced to leave** ^{son} record which may be preserved for future reference. The old soldiers themselves have nearly all passed away, having answered to the final roll call. However, there are many sons and daughters of the veterans remaining who will be interested in this record. The L. G. Ireland Post, of Sibley, was named after Captain L. G. Ireland, who was a homesteader in the eastern part of the county. This post was organized in the early day and was for many years a strong, flourishing and influential organization.

The post obtained permission, under a ninety-nine-years' lease, to erect its hall on the southeast corner of the court house square. A few years ago the old soldiers, realizing that their numbers were getting to be few, and in hope of passing their building into hands that would care for it in years to come when they had all passed over the great divide, gave the building and assigned the lease to the Sibley free public library. The building is now serving a good purpose and is being well cared for. As far as can be gathered at this late date the following is a list of the old soldiers who appeared in this county or affiliated with this post:

Wallace M. Moore, corporal, Company E, Ninety-first Pennsylvania.

Sylvester A. Wright, sergeant, Company C, One Hundred and Twelfth New York Infantry.

Harvey Walters, private, Company H, Fourth Iowa Cavalry.

John H. Douglass, corporal, Company K, First Iowa Cavalry.

D. J. Spencer, private, Company B, Fifth Wisconsin Infantry.

Charles M. Bailey, sergeant, Company A, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry.

Thomas O. Wilbern, private, Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-third Illinois Infantry.

George Carew, private, Company G, Sixth Ohio Cavalry.

Enoch C. Jenkins, private, Company B, Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry.

Augustus O'Neill, corporal, Company A, Forty-third Wisconsin Infantry.

Jackson Blair, private, Company H, Sixty-third Indiana Infantry.
 Asel W. Mitchell, private, Company G, Fourth Wisconsin Cavalry.
 Eldred Huff, captain, Company A, Fourth Iowa Cavalry.
 William Neyemeyer, private, Company C, Eighty-sixth Illinois Infantry.
 Phillip Proper, private, Company C, Forty-second Wisconsin Infantry.
 John P. Hawxhurst, lieutenant, Company H, Forty-third Wisconsin

S. S. S.

Charles Armbricht, musician, Company C, Fifth U. S. Cavalry.
 Robert Stamm, sergeant, Company E, Second Iowa Infantry.
 Edward Lindsey, private, Company C, Eighth Illinois Cavalry.
 H. G. Doolittle, sergeant, Company K, Fifth Iowa Infantry.
 Charles M. Richards, private, Company D, First Michigan.
 Alphonso Hall, private, Company D, Third Wisconsin Infantry.
 B. D. Churchill, private, Company A, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry.
 Amos Buchman, private, Company G, Ninth Regiment Iowa Infantry.
 Levi Shell, corporal, Company K, Twenty-third Wisconsin Infantry.
 N. I. Peters, private, Company C, One Hundred and Thirteenth Illinois

Infantry.

Willis H. Gates, private, Company B, Fourth Iowa Cavalry.
 Alonzo B. Graves, private, Company A, Ninety-fifth Illinois Infantry.
 J. C. McGowen, captain, Company K, Twenty-third Iowa Infantry.
 John F. Stamm, private, Company E, Second Iowa Infantry.
 Charles A. Stevens, private, Company B, Forty-second Wisconsin In-

fantry.

Merritt R. Winchester, sergeant, Company H, Eighteenth New York Cavalry.

Allert Romey, private, Company F, Second Iowa Infantry.
 William H. Morrison, private, Company A, Twenty-seventh Iowa In-

fantry.

Jacob Brooks, private, Company H, Thirty-second Iowa Infantry.
 H. Goldsmith, private, Company E, Seventy-sixth Pennsylvania In-

fantry.

Simmeon S. Parker, sergeant, Company C, One Hundred and Twelfth Illinois Infantry.

Daniel D. McCallum, private, Company I, Twelfth Iowa Infantry.
 Teel Nickloy, private, Company I, Twelfth Iowa Infantry.
 Allen Cloud, private, Company H, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry.
 Carlos P. Reynolds, corporal, Company G, Eighty-third Pennsylvania

Infantry.

Samuel Collett, private, Company G, Thirteenth Indiana Cavalry.

D. H. Tyler, private, Company K, Eleventh Wisconsin Infantry.

Henry C. Allan, private, Company M, Eighth Illinois Cavalry.

John Gray, private, Company H, Sixteenth U. S. Regulars.

Wallace A. Spencer, private, Company A, Sixteenth Wisconsin Infantry.

F. M. Spencer, private, Company D, First Wisconsin Infantry.

Henry L. Clappsaddle, private, Company C, Thirty-eighth Illinois Infantry.

J. M. Taylor, private, Company K, First Nebraska Cavalry.

Andrew V. Randall, corporal, Company A, U. S. Veteran Volunteers.

Benjamin F. Taylor, sergeant Company H, First Missouri Infantry.

Henry C. Morey, private, Company H, Forty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry.

Hiram Neill, private, Company A, Fourth Minnesota Infantry.

Jacob B. Lent, private, Company I, Twentieth Wisconsin Infantry.

William E. Ripley, private, Company M, Fourth Iowa Cavalry.

Theodore J. Stage, private, Company B, Twenty-sixth Illinois Infantry.

George W. Bean, private, Company H, One Hundred and Forty-first Ohio Infantry.

Hiram Burt, private, Company E, One Hundred and Eighteenth New York Infantry.

D. L. McCausland, private, Company C, One Hundred and Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry.

Hugh Jordan, corporal, Company H, Eighteenth Iowa Infantry.

John H. Daugherty, private, Company E, Second Iowa Infantry.

Abram Shapley, private, Company H, Sixteenth U. S. Regulars.

William Kearn, private, Company M, Twenty-eighth Pennsylvania Infantry.

J. C. Irwin, private, Company A, Fourth Iowa Cavalry.

William Yahn, corporal, Company B, Thirty-seventh Wisconsin Infantry.

Thomas Findley, private, Company K, Twenty-first Ohio Infantry.

John F. Glover, sergeant, Company D, Thirty-eighth Wisconsin Infantry.

James S. Reynolds, private, Company G, Eighty-third Pennsylvania Infantry.

H. B. Clemens, sergeant, Company I, Twenty-first Wisconsin Infantry.

S. Schutz, sergeant, Company K, Fourth Minnesota Infantry.

C. W. Bowen, private, Company K, One Hundred and Third Ohio Infantry.

H. H. Bowen, private, Company L, Third Wisconsin Cavalry.

David Averill, private, Company A, Thirty-seventh Iowa Infantry.

J. A. Argo, private, Company E, Eleventh Iowa Infantry.

P. L. Piesly, corporal, Company C, Second Wisconsin Cavalry.

J. H. Fenton, private, Company I, Ninth Iowa Infantry.

Robert Smith, private, Company C, Twenty-fifth Iowa Infantry.

Jeremiah Ferguson, private, Company G, Second Michigan Artillery.

George Coppersmith, private, Company K, Thirty-ninth Iowa Infantry.

Orvis Foster, private, Company B, Forty-eighth Wisconsin Infantry.

Henry Babcock, private, Company H, Ninety-sixth New York Infantry.

H. H. Russell, musician, Company K, Fifth U. S. Cavalry.

James H. Lyons, private, Company E, Thirty-sixth Iowa Infantry.

C. R. Mandeville, private, Company G, One Hundred and Fifty-third Illinois Infantry.

C. W. Camer, private, Company I, Second Iowa Cavalry.

D. J. Jones, private, Company B, Thirtieth Wisconsin.

E. N. Moore, lieutenant, Company H, Fourteenth Wisconsin.

Henry H. Hoffman, private, Company L, Twenty-second Wisconsin.

J. L. Jones, private, Company I, Forty-sixth Wisconsin.

M. G. Eckerman, private, Company H, Second Iowa.

Peter Philben, private, Company G, Twelfth Wisconsin.

L. C. Chamberlain, private, Company G, Twentieth Wisconsin.

William Turnbull, private, Company E, Sixty-fifth New York.

William Edwards, sergeant, Fifth New York Battery.

W. W. Barnes, private, Company G, Twelfth Michigan.

Ezra Pokett, private, Fourth Iowa Battery.

A. Jarr, private, Company K, Twentieth Iowa.

George Argobright, private, Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois.

Lewis Bowland, private, Company I, Thirtieth Wisconsin.

Joseph K. Shaw, private, Company E, Twenty-seventh Iowa.

James S. Patterson, private, Company C, One Hundred and Thirty-second Ohio.

George M. Lenehan, corporal, Company B, Forty-sixth Illinois.

I. E. Cleveland, private, Company I, One Hundred and Forty-first New York.

John S. Robinson, private, Company A, Ninth Indiana Infantry.

Emery J. Benson, corporal, Company A, One Hundred and Sixty-six / Ohio.

E. P. Smith, private, Company B, Second Iowa Cavalry.

Conrad Hattendorf, private, Company D, Twentieth Indiana.

Fred. Glade, corporal, Sixteenth Illinois Battery.

Eberherbt Kayzey, private, Company D, Forty-eighth Wisconsin.

A. H. Hall, private, Company B, Twenty-third Wisconsin.

Samuel Beckwith, private, Company F, Forty-eighth Wisconsin.

Aaron Cox, private, Twenty-fourth Indiana Battery.

P. B. West, private, Company B, Sixty-fifth Illinois Infantry.

John Klanpe, private, Company B, Seventh Wisconsin Infantry.

D. H. Tyler, private, Company K, Eleventh Wisconsin Infantry.

N. P. Johnson, sergeant, Company A, First Light Artillery.

A. L. Burnell, sergeant, Company C, Second Illinois Cavalry.

L. B. Barnes, private, Company H, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry.

C. A. Fisher, corporal, Company D, Twenty-first Wisconsin Infantry.

J. D. Roberts, private, Company I, Thirty-second Iowa Infantry.

G. L. VanEaton, private, Company A, Sixteenth Wisconsin Infantry.

E. Smalley, private, Company C, First Illinois Light Artillery.

David Whitney, private, Company G, Fifteenth Vermont Infantry.

J. F. A. Snyder, private, Company I, Ninety-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry.

W. H. Green, corporal, Company E, Eleventh Iowa Infantry.

Thomas Burt, sergeant, Company G, Seventy-sixth Illinois Infantry.

Chris Hudson, private, Company G, Seventy-sixth Illinois Infantry.

John Ditto, private, Company I, Tenth Illinois Cavalry.

A. Richards, musician, Company G, Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry.

R. Meyers, private, Company G, Ninety-third Illinois Infantry.

William Mowthorp, private, Company F, Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry.

A. G. VanBlarcom, private, Company A, First Michigan Artillery.

A. J. Coulton, private, Company A, Fifth U. S. Infantry.

George E. Perry, private, Company B, Forty-first Wisconsin Infantry.

E. Mulnex, private, Company E, Ninth Iowa Infantry.

S. H. Westcott, corporal, Company A, Second Vermont Infantry.

S. A. Colburn, private, Company C, Thirteenth Michigan Cavalry.

J. L. Robinson, private, Company F, First Maine Heavy Artillery.

Samuel Smith, private, Company G, Forty-sixth Iowa Infantry.

C. H. Morrison, private, Company A, Forty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry.

W. H. Irwin, private, Company F, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry.

N. P. Churchill, private, Company A, Twenty-seventh Iowa Infantry.
 J. W. Dickerson, corporal, Company K, Thirty-second Iowa Infantry.
 R. L. Norris, private, Company H, Thirty-fifth Ohio Infantry.
 Harmon Runyon, private, Company K, Thirty-eighth Iowa Infantry.
 Henry W. Reeves, private, Company A, Fourth Iowa Cavalry.
 J. C. Stilson, private, Company B, Eleventh Vermont Infantry.
 Thomas P. May, sergeant, Company G, Seventeenth Michigan Infantry.
 Fuller Sisk, private, Company K, Sixth Iowa Infantry.
 Jacob F. Pfaff, corporal, Company H, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry.
 Henry Dunkleman, private, Company A, Sixth Iowa Cavalry.
 M. V. Beede, sergeant, Company F, Sixth Iowa Cavalry.
 Darwin D. Hulbert, private, Company H, Sixteenth New York Infantry.
 N. W. Emery, sergeant, Company E, First Vermont Infantry.
 Cornelius Teal, surgeon, Company B, Fifteenth Iowa Infantry.
 George Taylor, private, Company D, Forty-seventh Illinois Infantry.
 Oliver Burton, private, Company F, One Hundred and Second Illinois

Infantry.

W. P. Underwood, private, Company B, Twenty-second Wisconsin Infantry.

A. M. Culver, private, Company H, One Hundred and Forty-first Ohio Infantry.

William R. Lawrence, private, Company C, First Wisconsin Infantry.

Joel W. Horne, private, Company C, One Hundred and Seventh Illinois Infantry.

John Coughlin, private, Company I, Forty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry.

M. Evans, surgeon, Ninety-sixth Illinois Infantry.

George L. Nixon, private, Company C, Seventh Wisconsin Infantry.

W. P. Rhodes, private, Company A, Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry.

J. B. Meade, private, Company K, Twelfth Wisconsin Infantry.

J. B. Lucas, corporal, Company C, Fourth Wisconsin Infantry.

Orlando J. Clark, lieutenant, Company K, Thirty-fourth Iowa Infantry.

John B. Like, private, Company K, U. S. Marines.

Alden Carpenter, private, Company I, Forty-ninth Massachusetts Infantry.

Nicholas Klees, private, Company K, Fifth Iowa Infantry.

Walter Wooldridge, private, Company K, Seventh Wisconsin Infantry.

C. W. Freeman, private, Company E, Ninth Mounted Battery.

- W. W. Barnes, corporal, Company G, Twelfth Michigan Infantry.
George Jameson, private, Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-first Pennsylvania Infantry.
Michael J. North, private, Company C, Second Illinois Cavalry.
Andrew Culver, corporal, Company H, One Hundred and Forty-first Ohio Infantry.
Elmer R. Hazen, corporal, Company D, Third Iowa Infantry.
William H. Lean, corporal, Company G, Sixth Wisconsin Infantry.
Andrew Miller, corporal, Company B, Sixth Iowa Cavalry.
William B. Anderson, private, Indiana Battery.
Sylvester S. Anderson, private, Company C, Twenty-first Indiana Battery.
Franklin Regarh, private, Company I, Twenty-sixth Wisconsin.
Lorenzo L. Sweet, sergeant, Company I, Thirty-seventh Iowa Volunteers.
S. W. Brown, corporal, Company B, Sixty-third Ohio Volunteers.
Douglass Cramer, private, Company K, Third Wisconsin Infantry.
Jacob Lahahty, private, Company E, Twenty-third Illinois Infantry.
A. V. Stevens, private, Company K, Twelfth Wisconsin.
Sylvester Bailey, private, Company H, Thirteenth Iowa.
Samuel Brown, private, Company L, Forty-third Wisconsin.
G. W. Meader, private, Company D, Sixteenth Michigan.
William Hicks, private, Company H, First New York Artillery.
William P. Lane, private, Company H, Fiftieth Wisconsin Artillery.
E. S. Bennett, private, Company L, Eighth Illinois Cavalry.
J. G. Protexter, private, Company D, Twelfth Illinois Infantry.
George Heldt, private, Company C, Thirty-second Ohio Infantry.
Samuel L. Lyons, private, Company C, Forty-fourth Wisconsin Infantry.
James Ruston, corporal, Company C, One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Infantry.
Wesley Cheney, private, Company C, Fourth Iowa Infantry.
I. C. Stewart, private, Company H, One Hundred and Second Pennsylvania Infantry.
James Holland, private, Company H, Twenty-second Wisconsin.
Francis Cole, private, Company H, Twenty-second Wisconsin Infantry.
Patrick Carey, private, Seventeenth Mounted Infantry.
E. Chilson.

Thomas Powers, sergeant, Company C, Fifth Mounted Artillery.

Herman Neynes, private, Company I, Forty-second Wisconsin.

William Cramm, sergeant, Company A, Seventh Mounted Infantry.

John A. Burns, corporal, Company B, Seventeenth Illinois.

There are many other veterans of the Civil War who lived here whose names do not appear on the foregoing roll. At this late date it is difficult to procure all of these names. The old roll of Ireland Post has the appearance of having lost the last page of names. Of those that can be recalled, the following names should appear: Col. William Shafter, of the regular army, was a resident of this county a short time and lived in Sibley one summer.

Lieutenant George H. Perry, of the One Hundred and Forty-sixth New York Infantry, and father of Mrs. W. J. Miller, spent the last years of his life in Sibley and is buried in the Sibley cemetery. Other old soldiers are as follows:

John H. Dagle, William Dagle, Nicholas Boor, Benjamin F. Webster, H. Bowersock, J. M. Wilson, B. F. VanCleve, David Wood, George L. Spaulding, Rev. John Webb, Rev. Ira Brashears, John Kittle, William Horton, James W. Carson (Kit), Nicholas Klees, Dave Underhill, J. F. Clark, William R. Belcher, Edward McMannes, Charles Shaw, Miles Hamlin, W. S. Albee, J. C. Rickabaugh, John Smith, J. H. Bahne, John Worden, Samuel A. Dove, William A. Doolittle, Huston A. Doolittle, Capt. R. J. Chase, Clark A. Perry, John I. Perry, Wernstrom, DeForrest Bennett, J. W. Reagan, Wallace Rea, Chauncey H. Bull, Chris Dormann, Frank Quiggle, William Schadt, William Shipley, M. D. Hadsell, Phil. Ladenburger, Valentine Quinnett, Captain L. G. Ireland (Maine), Captain E. L. Kenney (Minnesota), and Captain D. L. Riley (Second Wisconsin Cavalry), Dr. J. M. Jenkins, Dr. C. L. Gurney, L. M. Garner, John B. Curl, W. B. Keniston, John F. Bendon, Orvil O. Bunker (died April 5, 1914, at the age of eighty-nine years), John Thomas and James Hall.

CHAPTER VIII

EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS.

THE JOHNSON MURDER.

Peter Johnson, an industrious Norwegian, came from Ford county, Illinois, purchased land and settled on the northeast quarter of section 32, in Baker township in the year 1886. He was a poor, single man and bought his land on time. However, by industry and economy, he made the final payment on his farm in the fall of 1902. In February, 1903, he attended the Jake Brandt sale and on his way home stopped in Melvin for supper. That was the last trace of him alive. Fred Hokuf, at that time a single man, was one of a family of Hokufs in the same neighborhood and made a living by working out. The next day after Johnson took supper in Melvin, this Fred Hokuf appeared at the Johnson farm, took care of the stock and husked a little corn that was left in the field. He gave out the information that Peter Johnson had gone back to Illinois on a visit to his people and had left him there to take care of the stock and the place while he was away. That story received more or less credit for a time. Yet Johnson's nearest neighbor, with whom he was particularly friendly and neighborly, seeing each other every day, thought it very strange that Johnson, who had previously talked over all his affairs with the family, should take such a step and not say a word to them about it. Later when Hokuf began selling off the personal property the neighbors became suspicious and tried to get an investigation. As no evidence considered convincing was in sight the county authorities were slow about taking it up. The matter was finally taken before the board of supervisors and, although they knew there was no authority of law for it, offered a reward of five hundred dollars for the arrest of the murderer of Peter Johnson. It had become the general belief by that time that Johnson had been murdered.

O. B. Harding was then living at Morningside, Sioux City, and when he saw the publication of the reward thought, as he was not doing much at the time, that he might as well come up and look into the matter. Mr. Hard-

ing's old home for many years had been in that vicinity and he was well acquainted with Peter Johnson, so he made up his mind to try to unravel the mystery and upon preliminary investigation concluded that Fred Hokuf had murdered Peter Johnson. Harding, not being used to detective work, induced W. C. Davenport, ex-sheriff of Woodbury county, to work with him. Davenport came with Harding and between them pushed the matter to a finish. When Hokuf discovered his first story was not credited he added further that Johnson had sent a man as his agent from Illinois who had sold him (Hokuf) the personal property and rented him the farm for a term of years and that Johnson had gone to Norway on a long visit. Thereupon Davenport went to Johnson's old home in Illinois and found that he had not been there and no one had heard anything about his going to the old country. On this trip Davenport learned that Johnson had an illegitimate daughter, then a young lady, living in Illinois. In the meantime Harding looked up the Johnson personal property and found it to the value of about \$800. Hokuf claimed he paid \$400 for it. Being questioned he first said he gave a check for it, but when asked what bank he suddenly recollected that he happened to have the money by him and paid the cash.

Upon Davenport's return from Illinois Hokuf was arrested, June 8, 1904, on suspicion and brought before W. J. Miller, justice of the peace in Sibley, for a preliminary hearing. He waived examination and his bond was fixed at \$10,000. Being unable to secure the required bond he had to remain in jail in Sibley to await the meeting of the grand jury and district court. About a month later Harding and the sheriff went to Melvin and organized a posse to search for Johnson's body. Prior to that time the whole neighborhood had such a wholesome fear of the Hokuf family they were afraid to move in the matter or even tell what they knew. Ten men had to be enlisted before they dared act. They searched the cellar and old straw stack bottoms and every place where a grave would be likely to be dug in mid-winter when the ground is generally frozen. At the start of that work Harding offered a reward of fifty dollars to the man who discovered the body. By that time it was the general belief that the body was not far away. During the search Harding discovered some coal cinders under the bedding in one of the horse stalls farthest from the door. He cleared away the straw and called the men with shovels to move the cinders, whereupon they found what looked like fresh earth. He probed with an iron rod and struck something hard and said, "There, boys, is Johnson's body." One of the men present went home and returned with his post auger, and at the third lifting of

the auger brought up fragments of overalls accompanied by a strong stench. They then went to work with the shovels and uncovered Johnson's body. The coroner and county attorney were sent for and arrived before the remains were removed. After the inquest the body was taken to Sibley, but Hokuf was kept in ignorance of the finding.

When the searching party returned to Melvin, Harding asked who claimed the reward. One of them said it belonged to Harding as he had made the discovery. Whereupon Harding said, "There are ten of you, so each man should go into the bank and receive five dollars each." The ten men got their five dollars apiece and at least one of them got gloriously drunk on his share.

The sheriff and Harding put Hokuf through a sweating process and after about two hours of hard work Hokuf weakened and made a confession. He said the night after the sale he walked down the railroad track and when opposite Johnson's house he turned in and helped Johnson do his chores. On the way down the track he had picked up an iron brace that had dropped off a car and threw it on top of the snow beside the path that had been shoveled from the house to the barn. On the way to the house Hokuf picked up this iron rod and hit Johnson over the head and killed him with one blow. The broken skull and no other marks verified this statement. After this confession Hokuf tried to claim that he was acting in self-defense. But Johnson being a small, inoffensive man and Hokuf a big burly fellow, he soon found that claim would not work. After the murder he burned Johnson's clothing and papers to make it appear as if he had gone for a long visit. Hokuf acknowledged he drank a pint of whiskey while he was doing the job. In the meantime he was married and was living in Johnson's house with his wife and baby when arrested. It was never suspected that the wife knew anything about the murder. Her father took her home and she has since remarried and is a respected woman. About two weeks before he was to be tried Hokuf shot himself. It is not known how he secured the gun.

The court appointed O. B. Harding administrator of the Johnson estate. Hokuf's death ended the chapter as far as he was concerned, but there is still another short story which it took long to act. Under the laws of the state of Illinois an illegitimate child did not become an heir to the father's estate, but under the laws of Iowa it does. Then followed a legal battle for Johnson's property. The young lady appointed Harding as her agent to prosecute her claim. Johnson's other relatives contested her claim. To cut this part of the story short, the girl won in the district court. The case was

appealed and the girl again won in the supreme court. All this litigation was expensive, but when all through and finally settled Harding was able to hand the girl four thousand dollars.

THE SHOOTING OF GEORGE GROEN.

George Groen and family came from Kossuth county, Iowa, and settled near the town of George, in Lyon county. He first rented a farm and later bought the southeast quarter of section 17, about one and one-half miles west of the town of Ashton. He was quite a successful farmer. However, when he went to town he was quite likely to drink a little too much. He was not particularly ugly to strangers when under the influence of liquor, but at such times did not get along very well with the family at home. On December 30, 1908, upon returning from town there was considerable irritation between him and his big boys. They engaged in the game of pulling sticks for a small bet, and over the payment of this bet a quarrel arose. The father rushed for the door and secured a plow handle for a club and swore he would kill the seventeen-year-old boy. In the meantime the boy had run up stairs and got possession of a loaded shot gun and both thus armed were about to meet on the stairway. Before they met the boy fired point blank into the breast of the father and the father died from the effects of the shot three days later. The boy was tried for murder and at the trial it was made to appear that the father was of a violent and fiery temper; that the boy in a frenzy of fear for his life had fired the fatal shot. He was acquitted by the jury on the theory that he was in a panic of fear and acted in self-defense.

THE FREEZING OF BAKER AND JENKINS.

The blizzard of January 7, 1873, is remembered as one of the worst ever experienced in this county. The morning was beautiful and the weather looked promising, causing those who had a trip to make to start out in full confidence. At that time a man by the name of Peter Baker drove the overland stage line between Spencer, Clay county, and Rock Rapids, Lyon county, via Sibley. He left Sibley in the forenoon of January 7th with A. K. Jenkins as his only passenger. When about ten miles west of Sibley a terrible blizzard struck that uninhabited region of prairie with terrific violence. There was considerable loose snow on the ground and the fierce wind picked it up and with a grinding, threshing fury soon had a large part of it in air, quickly forming into great snowdrifts wherever any obstacle was in the way. The

stage driver's horses soon floundered in a big snowdrift, when immediately a greater drift formed about them, and in spite of all the two men could do, the horses soon died.

The men put up a brave fight for their lives—walking and stamping around, trying to keep their blood in circulation. After about eighteen hours of desperate effort, Mr. Jenkins became insane from suffering and laid down and died before Mr. Baker's eyes.

The storm lasted about three days. On Friday afternoon Mr. Baker was found about one-half mile from the stage trail with both feet and legs frozen to the knees. He was taken to the nearest house and cared for until the next day when he was taken to Sibley. Soon after both his legs were amputated and on May 25, 1873, he died. Thus two more men became the victims of the terrible blizzards of that time.

DEATH OF "OLD MAN LARAHTY" BY FREEZING.

This man came from Barraboo, Wisconsin, and filed on an eighty-acre claim on section 10, in East Holman township. He was sixty years of age, or perhaps a little older, and was called "Old Man Larahty" to distinguish him from his sons who were also here at that time. His real name was Edward Larahty. He was a small and not very robust man on whom the marks of time had made considerable showing.

The winter of 1872-73 was very severe. On Ash Wednesday in February, 1873, he came in from his claim to Sibley to get a few necessary supplies. Among other things he bought a piece of meat from Robert Richardson, who conducted a meat market then, as now, in Sibley. He started for home about sundown in company with M. J. Campbell, who was going his way as far as what is now known as McCallum's Corner. Here they separated, Campbell going northeast to his claim and Larahty steering east for his home, about two and one-half miles distant from that corner. That was the last seen of Mr. Larahty alive. A snow storm and blizzard came upon him soon after he parted with Campbell and the supposition is that the old man became confused and was driven off the road by the fierce storm. Between the exhaustion of wading in the deep snow and the battling with the blizzard, he became totally exhausted, sank down in the snow and froze to death.

His body was found in a day or two on section 16, in a snow-bank, perhaps one mile from his home. His name does not appear among the homesteaders on section 10 as he did not live to prove up. His body was taken to

LeMars for burial as there was no consecrated burying ground in Osceola county at that time.

During this same storm a homesteader in Fairview township lost his life. At that time there was a postoffice on the Spirit Lake and Worthington stage route, a few miles south of the present village of Round Lake, kept by William Mosier. Mr. Wheeler, a Fairview homesteader, was at this postoffice when the storm came up. Wheeler, thinking he could get home, started out, but was unable to find his place, and wandered about until he became so benumbed and exhausted, he lay down and died. In his wanderings he nearly reached West Okeboji lake in Dickinson county. When the storm cleared up he was found by Mr. Tuttle, whose house he was near when he perished.

In this same—January 7th, 1873—blizzard, Peter Ladenburger lost his life. This man came from Sheboygan county, Wisconsin, and had no relatives in this part of the country. After the storm he was missing and no trace of him could be found. On the 29th day of November, 1873, Fred Krueger was hunting in the valley of the Ocheyedan, and when a few miles south of where the town of Ocheyedan now stands, he found the remains of some person, which proved to be those of the unfortunate Ladenburger. Mr. Krueger notified S. S. Parker, who in turn notified the proper authorities. He was positively identified by a ring and the contents of his pocketbook. The skull was a few feet from the trunk. He was lying breast down, just about as a man would fall on becoming unconscious. Mr. Ladenburger was a carpenter and the last work he was known to have done was to put the liberty pole on the court house at Sibley.

THE FREEZING OF DR. HALL.

Dr. Hall located on section 28, in Goewey township, in 1871 and tried to remain through the exceedingly hard winter of 1871-72. He was the father-in-law of F. O. Messenger, who located on the same section.

At that time people did not know the value of hay as fuel and consequently had to use whatever they could find that would make a little fire. Dr. Hall and his son went with two teams of oxen to the Ocheyedan river to secure willow brush and had their loads cut, loaded and were on their way home when the three-day blizzard of January, 1872, struck the county. The snow soon became so deep in places that the oxen could not get through with the loads. So they unhooked their teams and continued their journey trying to get home. The boy, who was big and strong, drove one team ahead and

the other team and Mr. Hall followed. When near home the boy knew his father was not with his team, but dared not turn back to find him, thinking he was tired and would follow. The boy and oxen reached home in a half frozen condition, but the father fell by the way when about one mile from home. He was buried so deep in the snow that his body was not found until the next spring. After the snow had gone in the spring of 1872 the family dog came to the house with a foot and ankle with the shoe still on the foot, and the family knew it was from the remains of the unfortunate husband and father. A more thorough search found the remainder of the body which had been torn to pieces and mutilated by the wolves. What was left of Dr. Hall was gathered up and buried on the claim of Charles Jenkins, another son-in-law, on the southwest part of section 18, near Sibley. This grave is located on the Cronin place at the southeast border of Sibley. Soon after the remainder of the family moved away and their whereabouts are now unknown.

FRED KNAGGS.

The winter of 1871-72 was long and severe with large quantities of snow that drifted hither and yon with the drifting winds. Many homesteads were located in 1871, but it was the misfortune of only a few to have to remain over winter. Sibley was the only trading point for the greater part of the county. By February, 1872, the snow was deep and weather extremely cold. February 12th was fine and many settlers congregated at H. K. Rodgers' store from all around to get needed supplies and compare notes. In the afternoon of that day sixteen men met in Rodgers' store, the only store then in Sibley. The sky was clear and air fine with every appearance of the breaking up of the long winter, when suddenly the wind chopped round and a fierce blizzard broke over the county without warning. As was the custom in those days, the storm lasted for three days.

These settlers left the store and started out for their homes in various directions. A few went northwest, but stopped at the house of J. L. Robinson, on the outskirts of the town, and dared go no farther until the storm was over. A few went south, getting as far as R. O. Manson's, one-half mile south, gave it up and waited for the storm to abate. J. F. Glover and the White boys went northeast and reached their claims only one or two miles out.

Fred Knaggs, whose homestead was in Ocheyedan township, on section 20, about eight miles from Sibley, started east for his claim and family with a hand sled and a few necessities. After the storm was over word came to Sibley that Knaggs had not reached home. J. F. Glover, M. J. Campbell,

C. M. Brooks, Al Halstead, F. F. and Eugene White formed a searching party and followed the marks of Knaggs' sled, finding the sled about seven miles out near a vacant homestead shack. The remains of a sack of flour which the wolves had torn open and partially eaten was all that could be found. They were unable, however, to trace the man farther and were not able to find the body. Late in March the body, partly eaten by wolves, was found by W. H. Lean, several miles southeast of where the sled was found. It was supposed that when he arrived at this vacant shanty he was benumbed with the cold and nearly suffocated with the furious blizzard and that he became confused and lost his bearings and drifted with the wind until, totally exhausted, he sank down and passed into the unknown. A blizzard has a benumbing, smothering and exhausting effect on a person who is out in it and no one but a well-clad, strong and clear-headed man can long survive in a bad one. Mr. Knaggs was not well clad and had too far to go, allowing the storm too much time to overcome him. He was buried on his homestead and, there being no clergyman present, Mr. Frick read a burial service. They laid him away under the soil for which he gave his life, hoping to make a home for himself and family. His wife remained and proved up on the claim. Some years later she married Ed. Lord, and lived in Sibley several years. Finally the whole family moved to the far west.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF C. D. WILBERN.

In the early seventies, C. D. and T. O. Wilbern came here from Cherokee county, Iowa, and conducted a general store under the firm name of Wilbern Brothers. For many years H. K. Rogers, Brown and Channers and the Wilbern brothers were the leading merchants of Sibley. The Wilbern brothers gained a comfortable competence and retired. A few years after retiring both families moved to California, lured by the siren song of beautiful climate. A very few years sufficed to bring them to a state of mind where the bountiful soil of Iowa looked better to them than the beautiful (?) climate of California, so they wafted back, very little the worse for the experience, but much wiser. While they did not again engage in any regular business they were both of such an industrious disposition that they were never idle. On March 22, 1905, C. D. Wilbern, largely for the sake of having something to do, was helping A. W. Harris in and about his elevator. He was physically and mentally active and alert. One day he was out on the side track, superintending the placing of a car, and while he was watching one car, another came flying in and ran him down, killing him instantly.

His body was completely broken and crushed. It has always been a mystery how it could happen, that a man so naturally active and alert should be so trapped. However, a useful life was crushed out in the twinkling of an eye.

THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF PETER DE BLOOM.

In the year 1892 Peter DeBloom, of Grundy county, Iowa, bought a farm in this county, and in 1893 moved on to it with his family. Being a good farmer, he prospered and made money, not only by his farming activities but, beyond all expectation, on the advance in the price of land. In the year of 1904 he retired from the farm and moved into Sibley. On Monday, December 29, 1913, he borrowed his son-in-law's team and brought home a load of coals. As he was returning the team, a train hit the wagon at the railroad crossing, in the south part of Sibley, threw Mr. DeBloom out and many feet distant and killed him instantly. It is a mystery to his relatives and friends how a cautious, active man got so caught. He was only a little over sixty years of age and quite active. He had always cautioned his children to look out for the cars at the crossings. He seemed to be meeting his fate. This accident happened only a few rods from the place where C. D. Wülbern was accidentally killed.

THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF HERMAN FRY.

March 12, 1913, Herman Fry was helping to cut trees in the grove of his father, John Fry, a few miles west of Sibley. Suddenly and without warning a branch fell from a nearby tree, struck him on the head and fractured his skull, driving a piece of the bone into the brain. He at first fell, but recovered enough to arise, and was helped into the house. A doctor was summoned, but while on the operating table he passed away. His death was a sad loss as he had a wife and family of small children depending on him. He was buried in the Sibley cemetery, March 15, 1913.

THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF EDWARD LARRAHTY.

When Edward Larralty, who froze to death on section 16, east of Sibley, came here from Wisconsin in the spring of 1872, his three sons, Thomas, Edward and William, came with him. Thomas and Edward took clams, William being too young. When the hard times came, in consequence of the grasshopper plague, Thomas and Edward secured employment on the rail-

road as section hands. Being sober, industrious and trustworthy men, they received promotion. Edward was given charge of the six-mile section north of Sibley. On the last day of October, 1892, while at his usual work on the track a few miles north of Sibley, the rumble of an approaching train was heard at a time when no regular train was due. The work the men were doing was a small job and would occupy only a few minutes; consequently the hand car was left standing on the track ready to move on. Upon hearing the train all hands ran to move the car off the track and had it turned half-way around, and two wheels off, with one man working between the rails helping to push it along, when the pilot of the fast approaching engine struck the car and man, throwing the man one hundred feet by actual measurement. This man, John Rasmussen by name, was injured for life and settled with the company for some fourteen hundred dollars, and went to Nebraska, where, at last reports, he is still living. There was an iron bar on the hand car which was hit so hard by the swift going train that it was sent flying through the air and hit Edward Larrahty, killing him. He is buried in the Sibley cemetery. His widow settled with the company for one thousand dollars. This train proved to be an extra freight, running ahead of the passenger train, on fast time.

Andrew Verhage, one of the men in the crew, was hit and hurt so severely that he was laid up three weeks. Mr. Verhage is still working for the railroad company and is now section boss of this same section. Thomas Larrahty lives in Nebraska, having worked for the railroad company so long he is now retired on a pension. William Larrahty lives in Colorado.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY.

The first schools of the county were small and not taught regularly as required by law. They were held in poor buildings wherever the requisite number of children of school age happened to be found. Many of the first teachers made no pretensions to be qualified for their work. The pupils were young, the wages low and frequently the only way to have any school was to give a homesteader's wife a permit to teach some particular school. Often that school was held in the teacher's kitchen.

The first school in Fairview township was held in the homestead shack of S. A. Dove and Mrs. Dove was the teacher. Fairview now has four rural schools and the graded school of Harris, employing in all seven teachers. Gladys Foote is (1913) the principal of the Harris school. The value of the school property of this township is eight thousand dollars. It has two hundred and forty children of school age.

Horton township has five public schools and one hundred and ninety-eight children of school age. It has school property valued at twenty thousand dollars. There is also, in connection with the Lutheran church, a denominational school with an enrollment of thirty-one. The first school in this township was the Clemens school.

Wilson township supports six schools for ninety-nine children of school age, and has school property valued at four thousand dollars. The first school here was on section 27. It was eventually moved to what was later called the Cloud district.

Viola township supports six schools and the school property is valued at six thousand dollars with one hundred and sixty-six children of school age. The first school was held on section 14 and was later called the Shaw district.

Allison township has nine schools and the children of school age number two hundred and fifteen, with school property valued at five thousand dollars. The first school is hard to locate at this late day but it was probably in the northwestern part in the neighborhood of the New England settlement.

Ocheyedan township supports eight schools, outside of the "independent district" of Ocheyedan, with school property valued at four thousand dollars, and children of school age to the number of two hundred and thirteen. The first school house was built by the "boodlers" in the same season that they erected two or three others in the county. They were all larger than was necessary and built at an enormous expense. S. S. Parker later bought this house, moved it onto his claim for a residence and a more suitable school house was provided.

Holman township supports sixteen rural schools, outside of Sibley, with property valued at sixteen thousand dollars. The children of school age number four hundred and forty. The first school was at Sibley in one of the "boodler" school houses. Another of those expensive houses was located on the southeast orner of section 15, township 99, range 41. It was eventually sold and a proper kind of a school house located in the proper place.

Gilman township supports eight schools outside of the independent district of Ashton, with one hundred and eighty-seven children of school age, and school property valued at five thousand dollars. The first school, as near as can be made out now, was one near the first location of the Ashton church; another was in the western part of the township in the Quaker settlement.

Goewey township supports nine schools for two hundred and twenty-eight children of school age and has property valued at about eight thousand dollars. The first school was on section 10, later moved to the regular school site.

Baker township has nine schools and property valued at four thousand dollars, outside of the Melvin schools, with two hundred and twenty-two children of school age. The first school was held on section 8 and was taught by Mrs. Orvis Foster, mention of whom is made in the Baker township notes.

Harrison township came in later and had its first school at May City postoffice. This township now supports nine public schools, for children of school age, numbering two hundred and two, and school property valued at six thousand dollars.

Besides the foregoing country schools, there are in the county four independent districts as follows: Ocheyedan graded school, employing five teachers, and having two hundred and twenty-nine children of school age, and school property valued at twenty thousand dollars. The present principal of this school is J. P. Johnson. The Ashton school employs four teachers, and has two hundred and thirty-four children of school age. The school property is valued at three thousand five hundred dollars. Lawrence Newby

is the principal. The Melvin school employs two teachers with Alice Bahan as principal. It has eighty children of school age and property worth about one thousand five hundred dollars. Sibley has a school building of fifteen rooms, with seventeen teachers. This school has a normal department and a music teacher. The Sibley school property is valued at forty thousand dollars. The children of school age number three hundred and eighty-three. The non-resident pupils, paying tuition, number twenty-nine. The superintendent is J. R. McAnelly.

The value of the public school property in the county amounts to the respectable sum of one hundred and fifty-one thousand dollars. This will not correspond exactly with the public records since there are instances wherein the records do not enumerate correctly. The total number of children of school age in the county according to the 1913 returns is three thousand three hundred and thirty-six.

FIRST THINGS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY.

The first settler was Captain Eldred, of Gilman township, who was later county recorder ~~several~~ terms.

The first town in the county was Sibley.

Sibley was first called Cleghorn.

The first store in the county was conducted by Thomas Shaw, on the bank of Otter creek, a few miles south of Ashton, to which place he later moved it.

The first store in Sibley was operated by H. K. Rogers.

The first railroad train came into the county in the spring of 1872.

The first death in the county was that of Wells, who died of heart failure and was found dead in his homestead shanty on section 8, Ocheyedan township, in the spring of 1872. He was buried on his claim and later his remains were moved to the Sibley cemetery by the old soldiers of the Ireland Post.

The first white child born in the county was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Nijms, of Viola township. She was born in June, 1871, and lived only eighteen months.

Levi Shell opened the first lumber yard in the county at Sibley.

D. L. Riley was the first mayor of Sibley.

The first mail coming into the county was distributed at Tom Shaw's first store.

The first meeting of the board of supervisors was held in a small shack that is still making a doubtful stand on Ninth street in Sibley.

The first session of the grand jury was held in the fall of 1872 in the old frame court house, which had just been completed.

Maud Barclay, born December 17, 1872, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Barclay, was the first child born in Sibley. She grew to womanhood, was educated in the public schools of Sibley and married Alfred Morton. She died at Ocheyedan, January 11, 1902, where Mr. Morton was engaged in the banking business. She left one daughter who now resides in Sibley.

The first threshing machine outfit was run by John A. Haas, a homesteader on section 34, in Goewey township, in 1872, with Abe Shapley, of Viola, a close second. Both were horse power machines. Mr. Shapley was the first to own a steam power outfit.

The first bank was opened by H. L. Emmert at Sibley.

The first church was the Methodist church at Sibley.

Otto Turk had the first automobile, a steam machine.

George Carew had the first gasoline automobile.

The first term of court convened July 16, 1872, with Henry Ford, judge; C. H. Lewis, district attorney; Frank Stiles, sheriff, and Cyrus M. Brooks, clerk. The first case on the docket is entitled, "*L. F. Diefendorf versus J. H. Winspear & Company.*"

The first residence in Sibley was built by John L. Robinson, who was father of Frank M. Robinson, the first county auditor.

John L. Robinson died in Sibley at the advanced age of ninety-eight years.

THE IOWA LAND COMPANY, LIMITED, OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

This company operated in this territory many years and at one time it was said to be the richest company doing business in Iowa. Its plan was to buy the cheap prairie land in large quantities, partially improve it, put a cheap set of buildings on the various farms, and run them as tenant farms a number of years. Eventually the company sold out and thus gained the advance in price. The purchase of these lands was made in 1881 under the management of Close Brothers & Company. The stockholders were all English and Scotch.

In 1883 the firm of Close Brothers & Company dissolved, and C. W. Benson, one of the partners in the old firm of Close Brothers & Company,

took over the management of the Iowa Land Company, in which Ker D. Dunlop and C. F. Benson were active partners.

A new firm of Close Brothers & Company was formed and operated in Pipestone, Minnesota. The Iowa Land Company operated principally in Osceola county, with headquarters in Sibley. However, it brought some land in surrounding counties. Their entire purchase amounted to something like one hundred and fifty thousand acres, of which it broke in the neighborhood of eighty thousand acres, and built about two hundred set of buildings. While the Iowa Land Company operated here it was quite a rendezvous for young Englishmen who had nothing to do but spend an allowance. They gave Sibley the appearance of being a lively town. Horse racing, polo playing, fox hunting and toboggan sliding were the usual sports for pastime. The company sent agents east to look up tenants and a vast number, good, bad and indifferent, were brought in by their enterprising agents. During those years, Sibley seemed to have a boom, but as a lot of the floating class of tenants moved on, the merchants found that they were losing more from poor accounts than they had ever lost before. It was probably the hardest time the Sibley merchants ever experienced. The managers of this company were fine gentlemen and free buyers, as well as prompt paymasters, but many of their tenants were a damage to the town. Finally the Iowa Land Company closed out its interests here and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, where it is still doing business. Not one of the Englishmen are left in this vicinity.

THE FUEL QUESTION.

No problem of the first settlers was of more importance than the matter of fuel. Nearly all fixed their houses in some way to withstand the onslaughts of wind and weather. But there was a total lack of any kind of fuel sufficient to supply the necessary demand.

The first fuel was obtained from a little willow brush that was found along the Ocheyedan and Little Rock rivers, but that was insufficient in quantity and besides was very poor in quality. The only other visible supply was the timber growing along Big Rock river in Lyon county on the west and on the shore of West Okoboji lake on the east. It was a drive of from twenty-five to thirty miles over poor roads and through soft sloughs to either place. With the poor and ill-fed teams of that day it took two days of hard work for man and team to get a load of green and unsatisfactory wood. When the railroad was built into Sibley soft coal was shipped in, but it was high in price and poor in quality, and money was even scarcer than coal

When a car load arrived there was more effort to get to it first to earn one dollar and fifty cents for scooping it off, than there was to buy a load of it.

Finally some good samaritan suggested the use of hay for fuel. At first it was considered a joke. However, people were in such desperate straits for fuel that it was given a trial. After a good deal of experimenting the best kind of hay for fuel was discovered and the best way of preparing it for the stove devised. The long, coarse slough hay that grew abundantly in all the sloughs, cut before it was badly frozen, proved to be the best. When cut in the proper season and well prepared for the stove it made good fuel either for cooking or heating purposes. It was prepared by twisting a long handful tightly and doubling it into the appearance of a skein of yarn. When twisted tightly, with the ends securely tucked in, it made neat, tidy and useful fuel. The tighter it was twisted the longer it lasted. A bran sack filled with this knotted hay would do a big baking or last through a long, cold evening.

And thus the fuel problem was solved. The early settlers became so attached to hay fuel that its use was continued as a matter of preference several years after the grasshopper scourge was past. They considered the burning of hay as a blessing instead of a hardship. Some good housewives at this late day express the wish, when wanting a quick hot fire, that they had a sack full of good hay to do their baking. Now when many of these old settlers are still here and sitting round their big hard-coal heaters or over furnaces they never enumerate the burning of hay as one of the hardships of early times. The use of corn for fuel was not practiced in this county to any great extent. The intensive schooling the first settlers received during the grasshopper scourge caused them to look upon the use of corn for fuel as nearly a crime.

In this good and abundant year of 1913 the groves of forest trees planted by the early settlers as well as by those coming later furnished such an abundance of fuel that there is not only "wood to burn," but much going to waste. Many large trees are being cut each year both for lumber and fuel and the smaller trees are growing faster than the big ones are being used. One cottonwood tree in Sibley cut for fuel in 1910 made four cords of four-foot wood, thus showing how rapidly the timber grows in this country. This tree was planted in 1873. In order to illustrate by an actual example the statement heretofore made that the timber planted in this county is now furnishing an abundance of fuel, Mr. O. B. Harding, one of the early settlers in Goewey township, and many years a prominent farmer but now retired, was interviewed and made the following statement: "I commenced preparing

the ground for trees in the spring of 1874. The following year I began planting cottonwood and willow cuttings. During the summer of 1875 I planted some seed of the soft maple. A year or two later I began planting white ash and box elder seedlings. In ten years' time after planting I had nearly all the fuel we needed from the thinning and trimming of the timber. I then began using willows for posts and have had an abundance from that time to the present. In the year 1910, after using a large amount of timber for fuel, posts, cattle sheds, etc., I concluded to saw most of the cottonwood timber into lumber. I sawed twenty-five thousand feet of good lumber and the same year cut about seventy-five cords of wood from the slabs and trimmings. I also cut about two thousand willow posts from a small piece of ground the same year. After all the cutting that has been done the timber has more than held its own, and bids fair to furnish timber and fuel for the farm for many years to come. I also sawed some ash timber into lumber suitable for sled and wagon tongues, eveners and various other purposes for use on the farm. I have used part of the cottonwood lumber in building a large corn house, wood and tool house, chicken house and other outbuildings. Had all the cottonwood timber used for other purposes during all these years been left standing I could easily have sawed fifty thousand feet of lumber. This timber occupied little ground, being along the road side, around buildings and on the outskirts of other timber."

The experience of Mr. Harding has been duplicated by others. For instance, L. G. Van Eaton, also an early settler in Goewey township, now retired and living in Little Rock, made extensive sawings from the timber growing on his farm in Viola township. Soren Anderson in Goewey did the same thing on his farm, which was the homestead of A. Romey, now a merchant in Sibley. Among others who made extensive cutting of lumber from their own groves is J. T. Greenfield, of East Holman, who sawed sixteen thousand feet of lumber as well as many posts and large quantities of wood. R. S. Eakin, of Wilson, has cut considerable lumber, posts and wood. Henry Dagle and William Dagle, of Goewey, both living on their original homesteads and now wealthy farmers, have sawed a large amount of lumber. There are many others, but space does not permit mention of any more. If this county were entirely cut off from outside sources her fuel supply would be sufficient without any great hardship except that a few who never swung it before would have to swing an ax.

TRANSPORTATION.

The first settlers of this county came here by way of the prairie schooner route. A few who possessed the means shipped their goods on the Illinois Central to Cherokee or Le Mars and then moved them by wagon the rest of the way. In the early seventies all roads led to northwestern Iowa, where roads ended and a few trails took their place. There was no track to guide the claim seeker when he left the trail and he had to trust the heavens or his compass to reach any desired place. People usually came in family groups and helped one another through the soft sloughs. When a slough was reached some one of the party would examine the ground and if found soft, all would stop and double up their teams and help one another across. All carried a few simple cooking utensils and at night camped, prepared the meal and fixed up for a night's rest—some sleeping in the wagon and others under it. When the weather was good they had a very good time, but when the weather was bad they suffered many hardships. Old settlers say now that the least said about it the better. Each morning they moved on. House cleaning had no terrors for them. Three meals and fifteen to twenty-five miles per day was the usual day's work. They forgot there was any Sunday. Singing songs, telling stories and the shooting of prairie chickens were the common pastimes. They came from southern Wisconsin, northern Illinois and eastern Iowa, a hardy, happy, jolly lot, full of hope and courage and ready to subdue a wilderness. How well they succeeded the following pages will disclose.

The first settlers came in 1870, more followed in 1871 and the number increased in 1872 and 1873. During the summer and autumn of 1871 the St. Paul & Sioux City Railroad was graded through the county and in June, 1872, the ties and rails were laid and the first engine came into Sibley from the north. The road had been completed to Worthington, Minnesota, in the late fall of 1871. The winter following was so severe and so much snow came, followed by extreme cold weather, that railroad building was impossible until well along in the spring of 1872. Along about that time some stage lines were established to carry mail and passengers from Spencer to Sibley, and from Spirit Lake to Sioux Falls by way of Sibley. About that time much freight was hauled by teams overland from Sibley to Sioux Falls by way of Rock Rapids. Large quantities of wheat were hauled from Sioux Falls and vicinity to the Sibley elevator, considerable of that work being done by Indians with ox teams. So much wheat came to the Sibley market that

as many as fifty wagon loads were lined up to be unloaded in the morning after the elevator men worked as long as they could in the evening—unloading at what was then the railroad elevator. All this occurred before the grasshopper scourge.

The first railroad was the St. Paul & Sioux City line and to that company fell every odd numbered section of land given as a bonus by the United States government for building the road. The above named road kept and sold all the railroad land, but the road itself changed hands and is now called the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railroad. The road is known locally as the Omaha, and is used as a part of the Northwestern system. This railroad continued to be the only one until the year 1884, when another line, the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern, crossed the county from east to west. At that time the towns of Harris, Ocheyedan and Allendorf were established, of which more will be written in other chapters. This line was later sold and is now a part of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad. In the year 1900 the Gowrie branch of the Rock Island was built from Gowrie to Sibley, giving Osceola county a direct line to Des Moines and the coal fields of southeastern Iowa. On this line were established the towns of Melvin and Cloverdale, thus giving the county seven railroad towns for market and trading purposes; also giving all towns several daily mails. Sibley is now accommodated with fourteen daily mails. These various lines of railroad add materially to the assessors' valuation for taxation purposes.

THE GRASSHOPPER SCOURGE.

All history occurs in stages or periods. Thus there was a period of settlement, a period of improvement, and then a period of grasshoppers accompanied by privation, stagnation and hard times. We thought we had experienced many privations and hardships during the first years, but we were young and nerry and expected it, and in our minds were prepared for it and went through it with hope and song.

In 1872 a few acres of crops were sown and planted on land broken the year before, and produced fairly well, considering the wild and raw nature of land and the lack of proper tools to work the soil properly. More breaking was done, and a considerably increased acreage planted in 1873, in land better prepared for the seed. Everything came on prosperously and our people began to see their visions more clearly and to believe they were rapidly nearing realization. When lo! one fine day early in June a great cloud appeared in the distance with a slight roaring sound of millions of wings. First came

a few of the swifter hoppers, dropping, dropping, dropping here, there and everywhere—then more rapidly, oftener and thicker, more and more and more until all the ground was covered. the buildings and the little trees we had planted were borne to the earth by the heft of the hoppers that had clustered on them like swarms of bees. Immediately upon lighting, they began to eat every green thing in their way. As the grain was more tender than prairie grass, they gathered into the grain, and ate all day and during the night. A person could go out over the grain and corn fields in the stillness of the night and hear the stripping and chewing like the subdued noise of a drove of cattle. In the morning the crops were all destroyed. Corn, grain, potatoes and garden stuff all gone. The young trees were stripped of leaves and some of them of bark. This was the prospect of profit and living for two years gone, and gone in less than twenty-four hours. After the crops were all gone the hoppers scattered out over the prairie and lived on grass a few days, but they could make very little impression upon that. In a few days they left as they came, in a great swarm, making it look like an eclipse of the sun. They went to clean up some other county. But before going they deposited millions of eggs in the hard prairie soil and in the new breaking so there should be something left to remember them by. After the hoppers had gone, the settlers had little time to recover from the shock and disappointment of their loss. Remember, dear reader, that everything was staked on that crop. Here the true spirit of these sturdy pioneers asserted itself. Most of them, with true Yankee grit and American enterprise, commenced to summer-fallow the devastated fields, preparing for another campaign. They said that to plow early meant a heavy crop for 1874. So hope re-entered the stricken land and work went cheerily on, and, although the settlers had lost the first round with the hoppers, they refused to throw up the sponge, but came up smiling prepared for another bout. The hoppers, too, returned to the conflict but in a different way. In due season of time the same sun that warmed mother earth, and the same balmy breezes of spring that fanned and brought to life the grass and flowers of the prairie, and the same rains that caused the farmer's seed grain to germinate and grow, also warmed into life the millions upon millions of clusters of grasshoppers' eggs laid the year before. Suddenly it was discovered that the country was literally alive with minute young hoppers and that the hoppers must eat to grow, and did eat with a marvelous appetite. Being chips of the same, they immediately manifested their preference for the tender growing shoots of the cultivated crops instead of tougher prairie grass. Thus was witnessed day after day the race between the growing grain and the devouring pest. The

season was ideal and the crops, as if entering into the spirit of the life and death contest, accepted the challenge, and came valiantly on. The hoppers also, growing larger and stronger, and eating with a never-satisfied appetite, continued the onslaught with ever increasing strength and insatiate appetite. The settlers, meantime, were intensely interested spectators. What that crop meant to them must be left to the imagination. Pen can not fully portray it. However, people did not stand idly by and see everything devoured without effort. Many devices were employed to drive off, kill, crush, trap and poison the young and apparently helpless hoppers. But to stop the wind from blowing, or the rain from falling, would have been equally successful. Now, whenever those devices, at that time tried, are referred to, it is a matter of merriment. Finally, the great race was ended, the hoppers gained their maturity and rose en masse and flew away, leaving only a few remains of a ruined crop. The settlers saved a little, but not very much. When they went away one very Christian gentleman said he wished they would go to—and there checked himself, fearing he might be wishing ill to some one and, after a moment's pause, said—"where no one lives." When the hoppers left people were again relieved and although they were obliged to consider themselves the losers in the second bout with the hoppers, their spirits were not broken. They proceeded at once to prepare the ground for another crop in 1875. The hoppers left without depositing their eggs and this was encouraging, but later in the season they returned and filled the ground with such an abundance of eggs that in turning a furrow, which broke up the clusters, the ground assumed a gray appearance on account of the exposed eggs. The experience of 1875 was a repetition of 1874. These three years were the worst. After that, they gradually degenerated and by 1879 they did little damage. By 1880 the country was free from them and they have never returned in any serious numbers.

During the grasshopper period many, with good reason, left the country. Some returned to their original home and others went where they could find work. Each one had all he could do to take care of himself and was not able to employ or help any one else to any great extent. It is a wonder more did not leave. It may be interesting to readers of these lines to know how so many were able to remain and live through it all. One thing that contributed largely in enabling many to stay was the discovery that hay could be used for fuel. Other reasons will be better told by enumerating the experience of some of the early settlers from memory. Sidney Beckwith, of Viola, for several seasons hauled freight from Pierre, South Dakota, to the Black Hills across the Big Sioux reservation. Ed. Smith went to some place where a

railroad was under construction and worked as a grader. Peter Shaw, also of Viola, brought a little money with him and saved a few remnants of crops. D. D. McCallum, of Ocheyedun, put his axe on his shoulder, took a walk for his health and landed in the vicinity of Sioux City and chopped cord wood all winter. He had an ox team and as other settlers came in with a little money, he broke prairie for them according to their wants. Amos Buchman, who lived in a dugout on the banks of the Ocheyedun, went to Spencer and worked at his trade as a tailor. M. Harvey went to northern Illinois and taught a winter term of school. H. G. Doolittle taught winter terms of school in eastern Iowa. W. J. Miller and G. H. Perry returned to Illinois and taught where they had taught before coming to this country. Later W. J. Miller taught the Sibley school. D. L. McCausland taught school somewhere in the east and in the spring of 1872 got possession of the recorder's office to which he had been elected the previous fall. J. Q. Miller and many others handled ties for the railroad company. In fact many of the homesteaders found employment on the railroad at various times. After the grasshopper scourge was over, those who had remained were of the pluckiest and most determined. The most of those that hung on through those trying times made permanent citizens and are still here or have crossed over the great divide.

INTERESTING AGRICULTURAL FACTS OF OSCEOLA COUNTY.

The official crop report of Osceola county for 1913, as compiled by V. A. Burley, auditor of the county, presents many interesting facts, and an abstract of the report is here presented.

The total number of farms in the county is 1,102. The acreage of these farms is 238,410, of which 111,803 acres are devoted to farm buildings, highways and feed lots. There were 111 acres in garden, 494 in orchards, 11,198 acres of tame hay, 11,434 acres of wild hay, 51 acres of alfalfa, 111 acres of crops not enumerated, and 1,539 acres of waste land not utilized for any purpose, in addition to the other land wasted for the use of towns.

Corn was the king crop of the county. On 72,392 acres 2,993,755 bushels of the golden cereal were produced. At market prices this single crop brought its growers over \$1,500,000, which explains some of the new automobiles.

The second important crop is oats, of which 2,558,396 bushels were grown on 61,645 acres. This grain supplied over three-quarters of a million dollars for the sustenance of the poor downtrodden farmer.

Of winter wheat 199 acres were planted and 3,331 bushels harvested. Spring wheat was a little more extensively grown; 1,504 acres yielded 25,734 bushels.

Of barley there was 287,675 bushels grown on 11,785 acres.

Three hundred and twenty-six acres of rye yielded 6,445 bushels.

There were 11,646 tons of tame hay, 12,146 tons of wild hay and 93 tons of alfalfa cut.

A yield of 93,070 bushels of potatoes was dug from 1,066 acres.

On 658 acres 5,212 bushels of flax seed were grown. Of timothy seed there were produced 15,828 bushels from 1,975 acres; and 539 bushels of clover seed from 450 acres.

Twenty-eight acres of sweet corn produced 474 bushels; and 570 bushels of popcorn were taken from 16 acres.

There were 4,777 bushels of apples picked.

Stock grazed on 43,584 acres of pasture.

There were on the farms January 1, 1914, 60,981 hogs, and 36,620 had died of disease in 1913.

The number of horses of all ages was 9,441, and of mules 149.

The total number of cows and heifers kept for milk was 7,508, of other cattle 17,127, and of cattle of all ages 25,189.

The sheep kept on the farms numbered 2,781; shipped in for feeding, 2,969; sold for slaughter, 3,338. The wool clipped amounted to 14,908 pounds.

There were 179,158 head of poultry on the farms, and 787,935 dozens of eggs were laid during the year.

The average monthly wage of farm help was \$32 in summer and \$23 in winter.

PIONEER LETTERS.

The two following letters were written by Josef von Willemoes Suhm to his brother in Germany in the spring of 1872. Suhm was a very observing young man and his letters throw not a little light on the early experiences of the first pioneers of this county. It might be stated that Suhm stayed only a short time on his claim. He returned to the county in the summer of 1913 for a visit and was intensely interested in seeing the marked changes which had come about since his first view of the county in 1872.

"Go West Young Man, go West."—HORACE GREELEY.

Wednesday, 2nd of May, 1872.

In Camp near Algona, Kossuth County, Iowa:

Dear Mother—From my last letter ex. Lyons, Clinton county, Friday the 12th of April, you will remember that we were ready to start the next morning, Saturday, the 13th of April, for the far west. We were three men, Henry Dunkelmann, August Carstensen and your son Josef.

Dunkelmann furnished the covered wagon and four horses while provisions went for joined account.

The good old Lena, and Lisette, Dunkelmann's wife, had tears in their eyes when we started, while his sister Dora and father Wohlenberg were full of fun and I was delighted that at last I had a chance to bid, for sometime, farewell to the regular work of civilization and to roam like a gypsy through the country!

One moment we stopped at the Victor grist mill, the property of Wohlenberg, there to receive a sack of flour; then away we went with "Hip, Hip, Hurrah," over the little bridge, up the hill, with a last glance at friend Tritschler's brewery on our right. Twelve miles out of town (at Dunkelmann's farm) we stopped for the night. There two young men with their wives and wagons joined us and together we left on Sunday, the 14th of April, for Maquoketa. On the way I bought a big Newfoundland dog "Prinz" (of which you will hear more in due time) for five dollars. When nearing town a fearful storm overtook us and we tried to put our horses under shelter but the price asked being so high we resolved to camp under some big trees not far from the river.

There we started our first camp-fire in a fearful storm, then we retired under our wagon cover, but the horses being very restless, left us very little sleep. Therefore we lit our lantern and pipes and smoked and talked till daylight. On account of the frost and snow we did not break camp the next day but had a look at the little town and only left for Anamosa on the 16th where we camped close to a little stream west of town. That night we again had a hard frost. We did not reach Quasqueton on the 17th but made camp in a little wood near the road,—it was a cold starlight night and it was late when we left our warm crackling fire to crawl under our blankets. Independence, a fine little town, was our next stop. From there to Cedar Falls, via Waterloo, took us two and one-half days. On the road to that town we had our first accident. On a slanting road, crossing a pretty prairie, dotted with trees, the horses drawing one of the young farmer's wagons bolted,

while his wife was driving, and the wagon upset. Not much damage was done, only the tongue broken and the fair damsel fell in a basket of eggs, which gave her dress a nice yellow color. While Dunkelmann and we repaired the wagon the women changed her dress behind a bush and after one hour's delay we started again.

Shellrock is a clear, bright river. We camped in the center of the market place at Rockford on the Shellrock. Near Mason City we had a beautiful camping ground on Lime creek, close to a water mill, and on the other side of the river opposite our camp there was a high rock, a bluff, all grown over with ivy, which looked splendid in the pale light of the full moon. Our two young farmer friends left us here, as they had bought land in the neighborhood at twenty dollars per acre. We had a good look at the fine land around Clear Lake, and after a stop of five days started again for Algona.

From now on we found worse roads day after day and the night before reaching Wesley we had one of the biggest thunderstorms I've ever witnessed so far on the open prairie. Unable to start a camp fire we went hungry to bed. When we started next morning the wide prairie was one big bog and even on the hill where we had camped the wheels dropped, as soon as we started, up to the axle in mud and our horses had no footing whatever, so we were obliged to hire oxen to haul our wagon to Wesley, while we led the horses. On reaching the station we shipped our baggage by rail to Algona, at this time the terminus of the Dubuque Railroad. Six other wagons suffered as we did and when we made camp at Wesley we joined thirteen more emigrant outfits who were likewise detained by the bad roads. All told, we were, that night, twenty wagons in camp—it was a grand sight after the fires were lit to see the men, women, children, dogs, horses, mules and also some cows moving about in the glare of the light! On the last day of April we reached here (Algona), having been that day up to the knees in mud and water, while helping the horses and wagons to cross the sloughs and creeks. We found regular roads, anywhere with bridges, and the trip through Hancock and Kossuth counties is a never-to-be-forgotten recollection of hardship.

On the first of May we fetched our baggage from Algona station. The price of the freight was only seventy-five cents. The weather was very cold, with a little dash of snow. On that day (1st of May) eight more wagons reached our camp and there and then started our friendship with N. D. Bowles and his famous mules. Uncle Ned, as we called him, was a grand companion, always ready to spin a yarn. Today, the 2nd of May, Dunkelmann and August went to look at some land near Algona, which has been offered for sale, while other men from camp went fishing.



JOSEF VON WILLEMOES SUHM AND HENRY DUNKELMANN, CAMPING COMPAN-
IONS IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF OSCEOLA COUNTY, 1872

I am sitting before the mess-box. The weather is turning cold and it is also difficult to write in the open air while children and the dogs are running around me. Therefore I close my letter. You will hear from me soon again.

Give my love to the whole family and kindly remember

Your son

JOSEF.

Sunday, the 19th of May, 1872.

Dunklemann's Homestead:

In camp near "Bean-slough," Osceola county, Iowa.

Dear Mother—I hope that my letter from Algona reached you. We left that town on the 3rd of May with six other wagons, bound via Emmetsburg and Milford, for Osceola county!

Without much trouble we reached here on the 6th of May and camped the first night near the sod shanty of a half-breed trapper by the name of John McKinney. The land in sight is very fine—a vast, treeless, rolling prairie, without a limit to the eye and no settlers' homes to the north, south, east or west, can be seen from the trapper's little place. Dunkelmann took a homestead claim and so did August Carstensen and I, but it would have been better to my liking if we could have gone to North Dakota near the Buffalo range, where the wild Indians roam about four hundred miles northwest from here. I am afraid that this will be rather a lonely place with no other excitement than hard work, for all the game has left this vast prairie and the elk horns we found were well bleached and therefore not lately dropped.

I shall probably need a lot of books from home for the long winter evenings when there is nothing to do outdoors. For the registration of my claim I had to pay fourteen dollars. We had to do this in Sioux City, the land office for this district. McKinney, or "Lazy John," as we called him, went with us as a witness. The weather had turned warm and the trip across the prairie to Sioux City, touching the little town of LeMars, was a pleasure trip as Uncle Ned, who had taken a claim next to Dunkelmann's, never left off telling yarns about his mules and deeds in battle during the late rebellion.

Dunkelmann, being an old soldier, got one hundred and sixty acres, I only eighty acres, for when I mentioned that I had been also a soldier in the Prussian army during the war of 1866, I was told that Emperor William had to give me eighty acres, as from Uncle Sam I could receive only eighty acres, not having served him during the late war. Eighty acres is, therefore, all I could claim, but as there is railroad land in front of my homestead which I can buy at three to five dollars per acre, I have the intention of ac-

quiring one hundred and sixty acres of said land so that I shall soon have two hundred and forty acres, which will be as much as I can well look after. We camped near Sioux City on a piece of prairie, close to the Floyd river and were soon joined by six hundred U. S. A. soldiers coming from Kansas City, being on the way to Dakota to protect the settlers against hostile Indians. In the afternoon the band played nice pieces from "Die Weise Dame," "Robert der Teufel," and "Lucrecia Borgia." The soldiers offered to sell (very cheap) buffalo robes and revolvers, but I had no money to spare. Twenty-three of them deserted that night and only a few were recaptured the next morning.

Since we returned to our land we had a look for our county seat, Sibley, expecting to find it quite a big town. One fine afternoon, Dunkelmann, Carstensen and I mounted our horses, and started in the direction northwest, where, according to rumors, Sibley should be. While riding along we first looked at the soil, which was, according to our judgment, not near as good as our own claims. So the time was filled most pleasantly, but suddenly we remembered what we had come for, and glanced from a near hill over the country. To the south there stood a big frame house, otherwise there was nothing to be seen of a living settlement, for the sod shanties we had passed had all been deserted. My proposal to ride to that big frame house and there to ask for information about the whereabouts of Sibley was cut short by my dear friend Dunkelmann, who said, "No, Joe, I'm not a tenderfoot or a greenhorn like yon, I'm an old prairie-rider and pathfinder, who has been roaming three years on the plains of Dakota, chasing Indians and buffalos. No, my boy, I shall not ask for hints to find a town on the level prairie!" Well, mother, I gave in, but when soon a fearful thunderstorm burst over us, and we were compelled to ride full speed for shelter to that big house, we found that we were in Sibley! Think of it, that one house, Sibley, our county seat! Down went the biggest castle in the air I ever built! The one big room below was full of surveyors, land agents and a great variety of other professionals, while up stairs were bed-rooms, for it was also a hotel and restaurant, besides being a court house! It was, so far, the funniest experience I've had in the west, always to be remembered as long as I live, the hunt for the town and the great scout, Henry Dunkelmann, my beloved friend!

Now we are breaking our land and making sod shanties with board roofs, one day is like the other. We are hard at work, have plenty of rain and are often wet to the skin, but that don't bother us.

The other day we went for a walk across the prairie when Prinz found

an old he badger. We three big men and the dog went for the poor fellow and when we had killed him we found that his meat was not fit to eat. I felt sorry and ashamed of the deed. At night, serenaded by the mysterious silence of the prairie, we sit around the camp-fire talking and expecting big things from the unknown future. Some day we will know all about it, as "Uncle Ned" always answers when I ask his opinion about the unsolved mystery of our future in Osceola county. Farewell, mother. In love I remain

Your

JOSEF.

CONCLUSION.

Those of the first settlers who remain alive look around at times and wonder and marvel at the change. When this beautiful prairie was first viewed, all covered with rich grass and bedecked with prairie flowers, it brought visions of fine farms, with good buildings, protected by thrifty groves and lined by well-graded roads. However, after a few years, the first glamour wore off and we hardly expected to live to see our visions a reality. Now we look about and wonder whether we are dreaming.

During the first ten years we experienced hard times and met many disappointments. Well do we all remember when we were following the breaking plow and turning up to God's sunshine and air the richness of the sod, for the first time; we wondered then, as we do now, how many thousand years of accumulated richness we were disturbing. Scientists can examine rock and estimate something of the distance of the primeval time, when the rock commenced to form, but no one has told when this soil began the building process. It was something of a privilege to be first to disturb the accumulation of untold centuries.

We have witnessed a miracle. The present generation can only see the achievements performed. Of the experiences that wrought these miracles, it knows but little. We hear a lot about the high price of land at the present time. The fact is Iowa land is cheaper today than it was forty-five years ago. You probably think this is a rash statement, but we can prove it by evidence that will stand the test of any court in the land. You say our land cost us almost nothing. That all depends on how you figure the price paid. Today you can buy land in this county at from one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars per acre. You can go on that land and if properly tilled and managed can pay for it with the income from the land. In the meantime, while you are paying for it, you enjoy all the comforts of a king. Every convenience of the twentieth century is at

your door. You wear good clothes, your children enjoy good school privileges, and your families live as well as the wealthiest people, as far as good wholesome food is concerned. You ride to town in a fine carriage or in an automobile. You enjoy all the comforts of a wealthy and prosperous community, with good roads and as fine schools as the best in the land.

You pay nothing like the price the homesteader paid, forty-five years ago. Then the settler who came to northwestern Iowa and entered a homestead, jeopardized the life of himself and family. Many times neighbors were miles apart, and supplies, at first, were fifty to sixty miles distant. Wood for fuel had to be hauled twenty to thirty miles, requiring an absence from home of two or three days, if you had good luck and ever returned at all. The first few years a little sod corn was planted. The chances were that nothing fit for family use was harvested. When fall came the entire crop would not support a family of today one week. If the settler was fortunate enough to own a gun he could secure some small game to help a little. When he went a long distance to a railroad town for family supplies, there was only the mark of his own wagon as a trail to follow on his return. Sometimes he never returned. These things were part of the price he paid for a piece of land. If the grasshoppers left a little crop he was very fortunate.

Sometimes sickness came and wife or children were stricken with some wasteful disease. They could not be left alone long enough to go many miles for a doctor or medicine. The best you could do was to try to reach some neighbor, who would go and bring something for the sick one. Many times the settler was compelled to stand at the bed-side of dear ones, helpless to alleviate suffering, watch them slowly pass away, and then compelled to dig the grave with his own hands. This also entered into the consideration paid for a piece of northwestern Iowa land.

To this should be added something that money and land can never pay for. That was the days and weeks and months when the wives and mothers endured hardships that neither tongue or pen can ever describe—the homesickness and longing for human companionship, which comes to those who are shut in by vast solitudes, where the faces of other men and women seldom appear. The men who were busy with their out of doors work did not feel this loneliness as did the wives and mothers, who, when their simple duties were over, had nothing to divert their minds, from day to day, but to wait and welcome night as a prisoner behind the bars welcomes the marking of one day of his long sentence. Months went by, when the women of the settler's family saw no one but the members of the family and the

wonder is that the insane asylum did not claim more of these pioneer women. This homesickness is something that cannot be put into words, but the victim suffers more acutely than those who suffer from bodily ills, and no medicine can bring relief. The victim either dies, goes insane or recovers. The suffering endured would melt the hardest heart. In computing the cost do not leave this item out.

A few were fortunate enough to escape some or all of these ills and at the end of ten years were in possession of a piece of land worth ten to fifteen hundred dollars. Then they were obliged to mortgage it for all they could get to pay debts, contracted during the hardest years, to keep the family from starving. In other words, the homesteader had spent ten of the best years of his life and had only a small equity in a cheap piece of land to show for it. Do you think that was cheap land? Does it not seem more like a wasted life?

Many ask how people lived under such circumstances. God knows how. We often find ourselves asking the same question and we are unable to answer. We did not live in the true sense of the word; we merely existed. It was often purely a matter of endurance. Would you like to pay the price they did? Does not land at one hundred dollars an acre look cheap by the side of the price the homesteader paid? We insist again that land in Iowa is cheaper at one hundred and fifty dollars an acre now than it was forty-five years ago at two dollars and fifty cents per acre, and the ten years of hard service, while improving the same. The survivors of the old settlers rejoice over the marvelous changes that have taken place and are gratified to know they had a part in redeeming this country from a wilderness.

ODE TO OSCEOLA.

W. T. MILLER.

We speak of a land most fair to the sight,
With its rich, waving grass and flowers so bright;
A beautiful land and good to behold,
With a wealth in its soil of riches untold,
Where the sunshine from Heaven spreads over the plain
And the valleys and hillsides respond to the rain;
Where the air with its ozone is laden with health
And the husbandman tickles the soil for the wealth

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That is hidden away in this grassy retreat,
To respond to the plowman and lay at his feet
A harvest so bountiful, an abundance so rare,
To sustain all who come and have plenty to spare.
The name of this land, would you like to know?
No lovelier name can be found, I trow,
Than beautiful Osceola.
Whether sunshine or shadow, or summer or snow,
Or whatever dame fortune sees fit to bestow,
Be it bountiful harvest and sumptuous fare,
With abundance for all and a portion to spare;
Whether summer brings showers and fortune and gold
Or winter brings blizzards and hunger and cold,
Whatever betide us we still love the land,
Our fair Osceola, so beautifully grand.
We love all our homes and do not repine
That we chose Osceola, the "ninety and nine."
Oh, dear Osceola, where brave men hold fast
And true hearted women spread a sumptuous repast,
Were't the last drop in the bucket, and we on the brink
Of eternity's ocean, 'tis to thee we would drink,
Our beautiful Osceola.

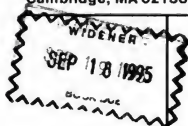
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